



Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika
Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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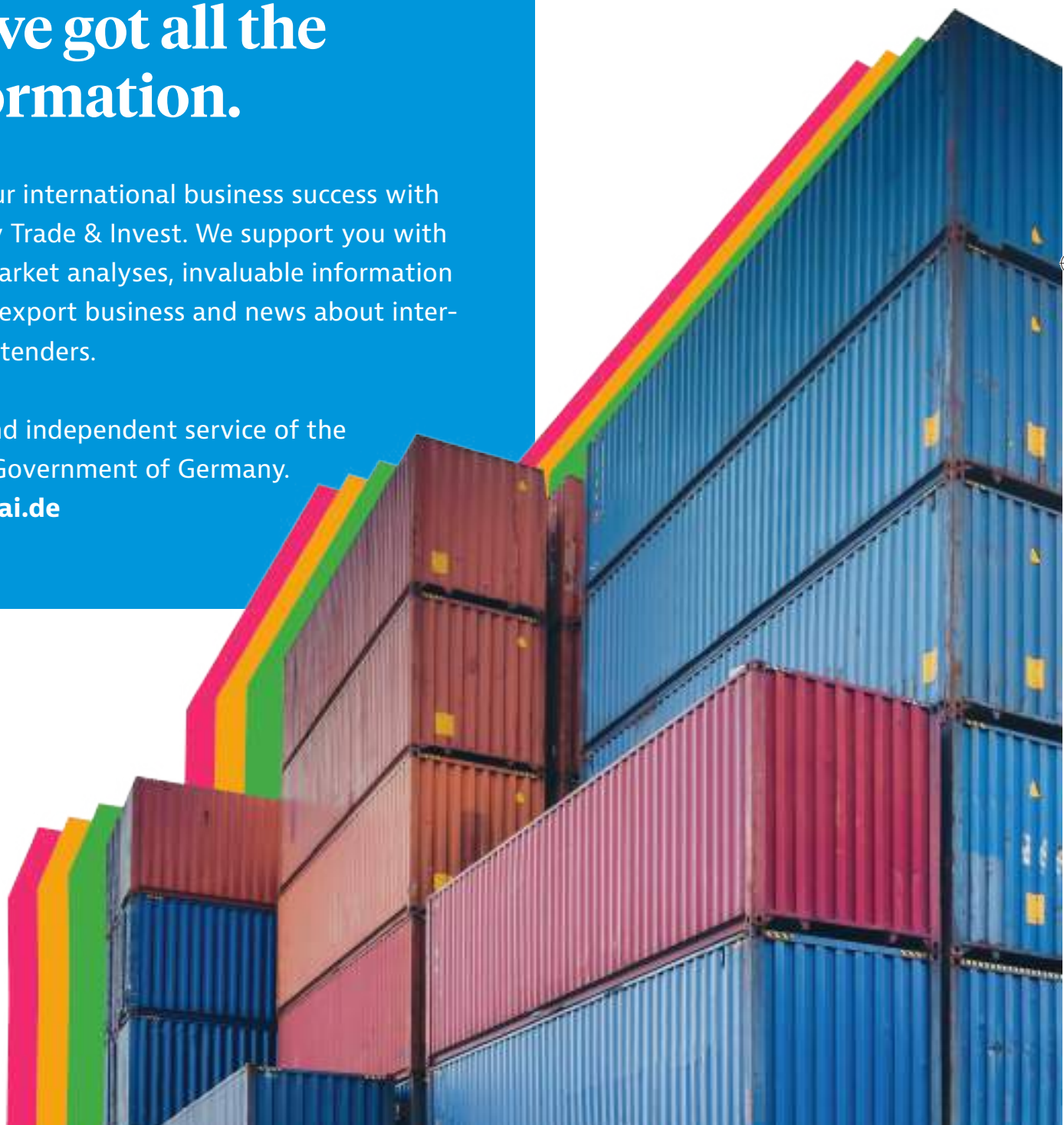
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Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika
Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika

Chief Executive Officer (to Q4 2025): Simone Pohl

Deputy CEO / Interim Chief Executive Officer (Q4 2025 – January 2026): Alexa Gerrard

Chief Executive Officer (as of February 2026): Maximilian Butek

Editorial: Nikitta Vogl

Advertising, Design & Layout: Courtneigh Dunn

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Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika wird vom Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages gefördert.

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[Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry](https://www.germanchamber.co.za)



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Daimler Truck Southern Africa hosting its biggest event of 2025



DTSA hosted its flagship event, The Daimler Truck Experience, from 8–12 September 2025 at the Gerotek Testing Facility in Pretoria, themed “For All Who Keep Africa Moving.”

The event gave customers and industry stakeholders an immersive look into the future of transport, showcasing cutting-edge technology, product innovation, and tailored value chain solutions.

Highlights included electric truck demos with the eActros and eCanter, ride-and-handling sessions with Mercedes-Benz and FUSO models, and live safety feature demonstrations on the Mercedes-Benz Actros 2652LS/33 RE.

A major reveal was the launch of Allison Automatic Transmission on the FUSO FJ range, enhancing performance and meeting evolving industry needs.

DTSA also showcased its integrated support ecosystem: Daimler Truck Financial Services, Daimler Truck Rental, real-time fleet insights via the Telematics Dashboard, and 24/7 roadside assistance. Digital tools like the Daimler Truck Parts Portal and TruckStore Warranty further elevate customer convenience and long-term value.

“Our customers are at the heart of everything we do,”

says Olaf Petersen, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Daimler Truck Southern Africa. “The Daimler Truck Experience is more than just an event – it’s a powerful platform that allowed us to connect directly with our customers and other industry stakeholders, giving them a first-hand look at how our latest innovations and product advancements can drive real value for their businesses.”



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CHAMBER PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Mr. Peter van Binsbergen



As we reflect on the year under review, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the Directorate and Advisory Board for their continued guidance and support, and to the entire Chamber team for their professionalism, dedication, and tireless efforts throughout what has been a demanding and eventful year. This year also marked an important leadership transition for the Chamber, and I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Ms Simone Pohl, who concluded her tenure as Chief Executive Officer during the year. Simone's leadership, commitment, and strategic vision have made a lasting contribution to the Chamber and its members, strengthening our platforms for engagement and guiding the organisation through a period of significant regional and global change. Thanks also go to Alexa Gerrard, who ably steered the Chamber as Interim CEO whilst we await the arrival of Maximillian Butek in February this year. Above all, I thank our members and partners for their trust, collaboration, and ongoing support, which remain the foundation of the Chamber's work.

The year 2025 unfolded against a backdrop of global uncertainty and shifting geopolitical and economic dynamics. Yet, it was also a year marked by opportunity, resilience, and renewed engagement. South Africa's G20 Presidency, represented by the active participation of our member companies in the B20, placed the country—and the broader

Southern African region—firmly on the global stage. These platforms underscored the growing importance of business voices in shaping international economic dialogue and policy, and highlighted the strategic role that German–Southern African cooperation continues to play in addressing global challenges.

For the German–Southern African business community, the G20 and B20 engagements reinforced South Africa's position as a regional anchor market and gateway to the continent. They also provided valuable opportunities to advance discussions on key priority areas and topics such as sustainable industrial development, innovation, tourism, skills development, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and energy (green transition) - areas in which many of our member companies are already making a meaningful contribution.

One of the Chamber's key strategic objectives during the year was to become more politically active and visible in representing the interests of our members. We successfully advanced this goal through a series of high-level business luncheons, roundtables, and dialogues with senior political decision-makers. These included engagements with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, as well as South African Ministers Parks Tau and Dr. Leon Schreiber.

These platforms enabled open, solution-oriented dialogue on trade, industrial policy, skills, mobility, and investment conditions. Of particular note was Chancellor Merz's visit, which carried special significance for the Chamber, as he completed his legal internship at our Chamber — a powerful reminder of the Chamber's role as a bridge between Germany and Southern Africa.



A key pillar of the Chamber's work during the year was the continued support provided by our colleagues to German companies entering, expanding, and operating in the market. Through close cooperation with the local and regional markets we represent, the Chamber facilitated market entry, business development, and partnership-building across a wide range of industries. This included the successful coordination and delivery of multiple high-level business delegations, supported by our Competence Centres and industry experts, each of which contributed meaningfully to knowledge exchange, investment exploration, and commercial engagement. In addition to strengthening established sectors, the Chamber was pleased to uncover and advance new areas of opportunity, notably within the textile and film industries, where renewed interest from German companies has opened promising avenues for collaboration, local value creation, and cross-border partnerships.

In 2025, the Chamber continued to focus on its strategic priorities of membership growth and engagement, events and platforms for dialogue, regional presence, skills development and training, advocacy, and financial sustainability. These priorities are essential to ensuring that the Chamber remains a relevant, responsive, and trusted partner to its members in an increasingly complex business environment. Looking ahead, the environment in which our members operate will continue to present both challenges and opportunities. While uncertainty remains a feature of the global landscape, we are encouraged by the continued interest in Southern Africa as a business destination and by the resilience and adaptability of our member companies. The Chamber remains committed to supporting its members through advocacy, insight, connection, and collaboration.

I invite all members and partners to continue engaging actively with the Chamber as we work together to strengthen economic ties, unlock opportunity, and contribute to sustainable growth between Germany and Southern Africa.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership.

CHAMBER CEO'S WELCOME

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Alexa Gerrard



2025 has been a year of renewed focus and purposeful streamlining for the Chamber — a year in which we sharpened our priorities and strengthened our role within the German–Southern African business community.

Before reflecting on the year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to:

- Our members, whose participation and support have been central to everything we have achieved this year from roundtables, delegations, and networking events.
- Our Directorate, Advisory Board, DIHK, BMW, German Embassies, GTAI, GIZ, and the political foundations, for their support and cooperation
- Simone Pohl, for leading this Chamber until October 2025
- Our Chamber team, who handled a demanding year with professionalism, flexibility, and commitment

With our former CEO Simone Pohl's early departure back to the United States, we experienced a leadership transition earlier than expected.

Despite this shift, the Chamber remained stable and as Interim CEO, supported by a strong team, I am proud that we continued to deliver on our priorities.



Strengthening Partnerships in a Defining G20 Year



Across all competence centres, we hosted numerous delegations, events, information sessions, workshops and engagements with government partners, strengthening our visibility and relationships in South Africa and the region. Our collaboration with local and national government structures grew meaningfully, especially on economic issues affecting market access, investment, and regulatory frameworks.

We welcomed **58** new members, a clear indication that the Chamber remains a trusted partner for companies operating in, or entering the Southern African markets.

This year we placed a renewed focus on the strength behind #TeamGermany – the three pillars of Germany's foreign trade promotion (Embassy, GTAI and the AHK). This unified approach is particularly important in times of geopolitical uncertainty, showing that Germany is a stable and reliable partner for South Africa and the region.

South Africa being the G20 host for the first time in Africa marked a significant milestone. The Chamber acknowledges South Africa's successful conclusion of the G20 year, including the effective hosting of all Ministerial meetings as well as the B20 and G20 Summits in November. Despite periods of heightened geopolitical tension during the year, South Africa maintained a consistent and measured approach. As a result, the first G20 held on the African continent can be regarded as a notable achievement.



This G20, we thoroughly enjoyed the various engagements between our German business community and the German political visitors we had the honour of welcoming in South Africa. The highlight was the roundtable and networking event with Chancellor Friedrich Merz, co-organized by the Chamber, SAP, and the German Embassy.

We continue to monitor developments beyond the G20 and B20, as these platforms offer important opportunities for cross-regional cooperation and engagement for our members. South Africa's ongoing commitment to economic diplomacy aligns well with our focus areas and creates a promising environment for deeper German - Southern African business ties.

Looking ahead, our priorities remain clear:

- Supporting German companies with their market entry goals
- Deepening partnerships with government and industry and expanding member services

On a personal note, stepping into this role during a period of transition has been a meaningful experience. Working closely with our team, partners, stakeholders and members has reaffirmed the importance of the Chamber's work and the potential of this region – much of it is still untapped.

Thank you for your trust and support of the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry throughout the year.



GERMAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE WITH GERMAN CHANCELLOR FRIEDRICH MERZ

On 23 November 2025, German–South African relations reached a significant milestone with the visit of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. This visit coincided with South Africa’s hosting of the G20, underscoring the country’s role and responsibility within the global economic landscape.

In honour of the visit, a high-level business roundtable was jointly hosted by the German Embassy and the AHK Southern Africa, together with its member company SAP. The roundtable brought together chief executive officers and senior representatives from a number of German companies operating in South Africa.

Held on the sidelines of the G20, the engagement welcomed over 30 participants and provided a platform for an open and constructive exchange between the German business community and the Chancellor. Discussions focused on the current business climate, investment conditions, and the strategic importance of South Africa as a key market for German companies. The Chancellor emphasised Africa’s young and dynamic potential, as well as the importance of long-term, transparent partnerships that enable local value creation and sustainable job creation.

As part of the programme, the Chancellor was given a tour of SAP’s impressive facilities, which showcased impactful youth development initiatives and innovation-driven projects.

The dialogue reaffirmed South Africa’s position as a strategically important market and regional anchor for German organisations, offering scale, talent, and regional connectivity that continue to influence long-term investment decisions.

The AHK Southern Africa extends its sincere appreciation to all organisations and individuals whose commitment and collaboration contributed to the success of this engagement. A special thank you to the German Embassy, Sarah Zuegel and Glenn Daly and to SAP Nazia Pillay, Sunil Geness and the team. As the AHK Southern Africa, we remain committed to facilitating constructive dialogue and supporting our members as they navigate an increasingly complex global environment.



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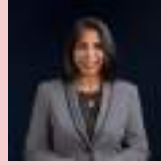
Directorate and Advisory Board

Directorate 2025/2026



PRESIDENT

Mr Peter van Binsbergen
Chief Executive Officer
BMW Group South Africa



DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Ms Saloshni Pillay
CEO/Chief Country Officer and Head of
Institutional Client Group (ICG) and
Global Emerging Markets (GEM) for SA
Deutsche Bank



VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Franz-Peter Falke
Managing Shareholder
Falke KGaA



TREASURER

Mr Kay Schröder
Director
WerthSchröder Inc.



DIRECTOR

Ms Mpho Toolo
General Manager and Managing Director
Dr. Oetker



DIRECTOR

Mr Dieter Sommer
Director|Partner
Rödl & Partner Inc



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *

Ms Simone Pohl
Chief Executive Officer
Southern African-German Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mr Jens Papperitz
Senior Vice President Sales Latin America/
Middle East/Africa at B. Braun SE.
B. Braun Medical (Pty) Ltd

*Executive Director as of February 2026 Mr Maximilian Butek

Advisory Board 2025/2026

Ms. Angela Naumann-Daun
Director
Chatroom Brand Marketing &
Communications (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Boris Werner
Managing Director
KSB Pumps and Valves
S.A. (Pty)

Dr. Dieter Kovar
CEO
Schauenburg International –
Africa Group

Dr. Markus Thill
President Region Africa
Robert Bosch (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Ghitesh Deva
Partner
Forvis Mazars Support
Services (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Jan Aichinger
Managing Director/ Executive
Director
MAN Automotive South
Africa (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Jorge Levinson
CEO
Bayer Southern Africa
(Pty) Ltd

Mr Oliver Drews
Managing Partner
Clifftop Colony Capital
Partners (Pty) Ltd

Prof. em. Dr. Andre Thomashausen
Professor Emeritus of
International, Comparative, and
Constitutional Law
Legesmundi

Mr. Ralf Franke
Director
Logcoat (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Rene Koinzack
Senior Director Sales Southern
& East Africa, Nigeria and
Equatorial Guinea

Mr. Rudi van Niekerk
Regional General Manager
H&R South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Ms. Sabine Dall'Omo
CEO
Siemens Southern and
Eastern Africa (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Sam Tsima
CEO
Cometsa GoC International
(Pty) Ltd

Rev Fr S Hippler
Executive Chair
Board of Trustees
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Trust (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Sven Moeller
Managing Director
Bow Wave Advisory
Group (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Thabo Molekoa
Chairman and Managing
Director
Siemens Energy (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Thomas Schaefer
Country Director
GIZ South Africa, Lesotho and
eSwathini

Mr. Thorsten Ronge
Managing Director
SMA Solar Technology
South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Mr. Volker Werth
Director
InterGest South Africa
(Pty) Ltd

Honorary Members for life of the Advisory Board

Mr. Christoph Köpke

Mr. Fritz Keller

Dr. Klaus Döring

Mr. Leo Röhrig

Mr. Molefe Seth Phalatse

Mr. Terry Bowman

ORGANOGRAM

Meet the Team



CEO
Simone Pohl



**Interim CEO/
Deputy CEO**
Alexa Gerrard



COO
Gavin Frayne



**Head of
Finance & HR**

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



Regional Coordinator
Jens Hauser



Western Cape
Anja Tambusso-Ferraz



Kwa-Zulu Natal
Danilla van Jaarsveldt

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & STRATEGIC PROJECTS



Dambisa Dube

COMPETENCE CENTER'S & DEPARTMENTS



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Jens Hauser, *HoD*
Philip Schell-Hammer, *Project Manager*
Stef Van der Walt, *Project Manager*
Vera Massie, *Project Manager*
Water Management



EVENTS, MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Nikitta Vogl, *HoD*
Nokwanda Kambuwa, *Project Manager*
Courtneigh Dunn, *Graphic Designer & Digital Marketer*



FINANCE, HR & ADMIN

Dineo Lephoto, *CATS Student*
Florence Taïle, *Receptionist*
Karabo Makenete, *Assistant to HoD Finance*
Karin Prentice, *CEO Office Executive Assistant*
Lofentse Mohlabane, *HR Administrator*
Thomas Kallenbach, *Senior Project Assistant for the Cape Town office*



MINING & MINERAL RESOURCES

Selleen Sewpershad, *HoD*
Thululela Pupuma, *Project Manager*



SKILLED WORKERS FOR GERMANY

Danilla van Jaarsveldt, *Skills Expert Programme (SEP) Project Manager*
Karabo Tshabalala, *African Skills 4 Germany (AS4G) Project Manager*



INDUSTRY / TRADE FAIRS

Knowledge Tenza, *Project Manager for Trade Fairs*
Mpho Letsoalo, *Project Manager for Industry*
Stef Van Der Walt, *Project Manager*



SOURCING

Bernhard Rohkemper, *HoD*



IT

Phumlani Mngomezulu, *IT Manager*



TRAINING & CSR

Mandla Ngcobo, *HoD*
Taurai Gumbo, *Lecturer*
Omphemetse Ramokhua, *Training Office Administrator*



REGIONAL CONSULTANTS

Bernd Doppelfeld, *Zimbabwe*
Walter Engelmann, *Germany*
Holger Hay, *Mozambique*
Cynthia Ngoma, *Zambia*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **2025** **& EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING**

The AHK Southern Africa convened its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, 26 June 2025, marking an important moment of reflection, leadership renewal, and strategic alignment for the Chamber. During the AGM, members elected and re-elected representatives to the Board of Directors and Advisory Board, reaffirming the Chamber's strong governance foundation and its commitment to advancing German–Southern African economic cooperation.

In his Presidential address, AHK Southern Africa President Mr. Peter van Binsbergen highlighted a year defined by transformation and progress for both the region and the Chamber. He emphasised the significant organizational developments achieved through leadership changes, new team additions, and an enhanced focus on advocacy and member engagement. These efforts strengthened the Chamber's responsiveness to stakeholder needs and reinforced its role as a trusted bridge between business and government.

Mr. van Binsbergen further acknowledged the vital support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the DIHK, whose financial and strategic contributions continue to enable the Chamber's impactful work. Appreciation was also extended to key partners including GIZ, Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), political foundations, German Embassies, and the South African Embassy in Germany, whose collaboration remains essential to advancing bilateral economic initiatives.

Special recognition was given to the Advisory Board, Directorate, Chamber management, and staff for their dedication, resilience, and commitment throughout a period of change. Above all, the President expressed gratitude to the Chamber's members and partners, reaffirming their central role in driving the Chamber's success and relevance.

As part of the AGM proceedings, Mr. Kay Schröder (WerthSchröder Inc..) was confirmed to continue serving as Treasurer of the Board of Directors, while Ms Saloshni Pillay was voted in as Deputy President. Mr. Dieter Sommer (Rödl & Partner Inc.) was newly elected to the Board.

Changes to the Advisory Board included the election of Mr. Jan Aichinger (MAN Automotive South Africa), Mr. Thorsten Ronge (SMA Solar Technology South Africa), Mr. Rudi van Niekerk (H&R South Africa), and Mr. Boris Werner (KSB Pumps and Valves S.A.), alongside the re-election of Prof. em. Dr. André Thomashausen (Legesmundi). A full list of Board and Advisory Board members is provided on page [12](#).

The election of new leadership representatives marks a renewed commitment to the Chamber's mission of fostering bilateral trade, investment, and sustainable economic development between Southern Africa and Germany, ensuring strong continuity and fresh perspectives for the years ahead.

EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 2025

THURSDAY, 13TH OF NOVEMBER 2025

During the financial audit, a few areas were identified for further analysis. Committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency and accuracy, we took the necessary time to conduct a thorough review. As a result, the finalisation of the 2024 financial statements was deferred beyond the Annual General Meeting. To provide our stakeholders with a complete and precise financial overview, we scheduled an Extraordinary General Meeting, where the finalised financial statements for 2024 were presented and approved by the members unanimously.

2023 - 2024 Financial Performance

Revenue	2024	2023
Membership Fees	2,272,030	2,113,702
Projects	3,838,839	1,969,255
Training	2,899,147	2,321,555
Delegations	3,889,356	4,677,900
Other	5,801,539	6,221,145
TOTAL	18,700,911	17,303,557

Government subsidies	2024	2023
DIHK subsidy	15,413,519	10,114,475
GTAI subsidy	1,361,997	1,339,574
Skills Expert, Branch Expert and Mining Programme	3,260,243	3,484,196
TOTAL	20,035,759	14,938,245

2023 - 2024 Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2024	2023
Property plant and equipment	7,309,814	6,888,120
Trade receivables	2,645,703	2,004,605
Other trade receivables	649,991	579,138
Cash and cash equivalents	19,214,920	20,635,261
TOTAL	29,820,428	30,107,124

Liabilities	2024	2023
Trade payables	3,184,018	2,278,133
Provisions and Accruals	7,478,918	8,082,154
Accrued leave pay	509,286	523,441
Deferred income	271,061	1,935,4299
TOTAL	11,443,283	12,819,157

2023 - 2024 Cashflow

Cash Flow	2024	2023
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	756,366	9,696,911
Net cash used in investing activities	-1203199	-855,372
Net cash used in financing activities	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	20,635,261	11,196,584
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	19,214,920	20,635,261

Outlook 2025

Revenue	YTD 2025
Membership Fees	2,241,980
Projects	2,079,106
Chamber Functions	1,642,831
Delegations	12,025,090
Training	2,850,642
Other	6,252,057
TOTAL	27,091,706

Operating expenditure	YTD 2025
Operating expenses	57,701,833
(Loss)/Surplus	52,581

Government subsidies	YTD 2025
DIHK subsidy	21,335,296
GTAI subsidy	1,457,063
Skills Expert, Branch Expert and Mining Programme	7,870,358
TOTAL	30,662,716



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COMPETENCE CENTRE EVENTS, MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP

Head of Competence Centre: Events, Marketing & Membership, Nikitta Vogl

“ Strong business communities are not built through transactions alone, but through trust, dialogue, and a shared commitment to long-term impact. ”

As we reach the close of 2025, it is hard to believe how quickly the year has unfolded. Against the backdrop of a politically and economically dynamic period for South Africa and the continent at large—marked most notably by South Africa’s role in hosting the B20 and G20—this year has been one of momentum, reflection, and renewed purpose.

Taking a moment to pause, reflect, and gather my thoughts for this Annual Report has been both a privilege and a challenge. The year was filled with engagements, projects, and member-focused initiatives, leaving little room to stand still—yet offering countless moments worth celebrating. This report captures a snapshot of those highlights, recognising that many of the stories shared here have also lived across our digital platforms, events, and personal interactions throughout the year.

A Year of Change and Renewed Focus

2025 marked a year of noticeable shifts. Membership and Sponsorship trends reflected a renewed global and regional focus on Southern Africa, with companies seeking deeper engagement, relevance, and resilience in a complex international environment. We observed growing interest in long-term partnerships, sector-specific collaboration, and platforms that move beyond visibility toward meaningful impact.

This shift reinforced the importance of our role as a connector—between Germany and Southern Africa, between established corporates and emerging businesses, and between strategy and execution. Our work increasingly focused on creating spaces for dialogue, insight-sharing, and relationship-building that respond to real business needs.



Membership at the Core

At the heart of everything we do are our members. In 2025, we were proud to welcome new member companies, bringing our **58** total membership to 573 companies, comprising 56% German and 44% South African organisations. This diversity remains one of the Chamber's greatest strengths, offering a rich ecosystem of perspectives, expertise, and opportunity.

One of the most rewarding developments this year was the expansion of company visits. These engagements allowed us to connect more deeply with our members—meeting their teams, seeing their operations firsthand, and gaining insight into the innovation and impact they drive daily. As you turn the pages of this report, it becomes evident just how deeply German innovation is integrated into our business (and private lives).

I often challenge people to consider whether it is possible to go through a full 24 hours without encountering a German product or technology. From the appliances we use in the morning, the taps we open, the food we consume, and the machinery behind its production, to the IT systems generating payslips, the cars on our roads, and even the printing of the book read before bedtime—German innovation is woven into our everyday lives in ways we often don't even know. These touchpoints serve as a powerful reminder of the depth and longevity of German–Southern African business ties.

Flagship Events and Meaningful Engagements

Throughout 2025, our flagship events and projects continued to serve as anchors for engagement. From high-level business dialogues and delegations to sector-focused roundtables and member networking platforms, our events were designed to be purposeful, relevant, and responsive. A notable highlight was the hosting of senior business engagements alongside major global moments such as the G20, reinforcing South Africa's

position as a strategic market and regional gateway.

These platforms would not be possible without strong partnerships, committed sponsors, and members who actively contribute their insights, expertise, and time. Collaboration is no longer simply beneficial—it is essential. Through shared knowledge, strategic partnerships, and collective problem-solving, we aim to empower our members to navigate complexity and unlock opportunity.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, I invite our members and partners to engage even more closely with the Chamber—and specifically with my team in Events, Marketing, and Membership. We encourage companies to reach out, share their priorities, challenges, and focus areas, and work with us to shape platforms that add real value. Your insights guide our programming and ensure that our initiatives remain aligned with your needs.

Dankeschön

To our members and partners: thank you for your collaboration, trust, and ongoing support. To my team, I extend my sincere appreciation for your dedication, resilience, and positivity in finding solutions and consistently going the extra mile—for both internal and external stakeholders.

This Annual Report is more than a reflection of activities; it is a snapshot to the collective achievements of our members and partners and to our shared commitment to strengthening bilateral trade relations between Germany and Southern Africa. I invite you to continue turning the pages, celebrating the stories within, and shaping the journey ahead with us.



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We are excited to introduce the **58** new members that joined our growing Southern African-German business community in 2025*

Aqua-amanzi	BFG Africa Rail (Pty) Ltd
Engineering Solutions (Pty)Ltd	Cross Country Air Safaris (Pty)Ltd
Babanango Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd	Chemetall Pty Ltd
Busch Vacuum (PTY) LTD South Africa	Greeff Yzerfontein-Swartland
CH LOGISTICS PROPRIETARY LIMITED	MAN Automotive (PTY) Ltd.
Cyberspace Protection	Marisa Lourenco Consulting
DEKRA Services (Pty) Ltd	MPOWER TRANSPORT (PTY)LTD
EcoSquare Consulting	Nautilus Africa
FAM Minerals & Mining SA (Pty) Ltd.	Saseran IT Solutions
Fuse IT (Pty) Ltd	Technology Infrastructure Architects PTY LTD
Gemmill Advisory (Pty) Ltd	URBAN FARM TECHNOLOGY
IHK für Rheinessen	Youth Employment Services (YES)
Ingenious Evolution	Easigas Pty Ltd
Irvine Partners	Dinoko IT Solutions
kaufmann Engineering t/a HEGE Mechanical and Plant Engineering	Beaver Immigration & Recruitment
Khanyisa Greentech Energy	Goode Wind Properties
Kuchera GmbH	Mei-Projects and Management PTY(LTD)
Letsema Consulting and Advisory	AIH Capital
POLYVANTIS AFRICA (PTY) LTD	Pension Fund Partners
Recovery Advisers SA (Pty) Ltd	ATI Africa Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd
Schächter Sports GmbH	TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (TUT)
Schaeffler South Africa	Greeff Christie's Stellenbosch and Franschoek
Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd	Innomotics (Pty) Ltd
Steintex (Pty) Ltd	African Safari Holidays (Pty) Ltd. t//a African Safari Dream
The Brokers Learning Centre t/a BLC Academy	DSC Arminia Bielefeld GmbH & Co. KGaA
Transcend Capital (Pty) Ltd	Romney Park Residence Pty (Ltd)
Junker Filter GmbH	Scion Energy
MANN+HUMMEL Filters SA (Pty) Ltd	Outsource SA Solutions (Pty) Ltd
High Voltage Creations (Pty) Ltd.	Sinotec SicherheitsSysteme GmbH

Interested in finding out more about Membership at the AHK Southern Africa?
Email members@germanchamber.co.za for more information.

*The members listed here are in the order that they have joined.



GERMAN-SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUSINESS OUTLOOK 2025

In 2025, the AHK Southern Africa, in partnership with KPMG Germany, released the German-Southern African Business Outlook 2025, providing valuable insights into the expectations, priorities, and investment intentions of German companies operating in South Africa and the wider Southern African region.

The findings were officially presented during the first German–Southern African Business Outlook Press Conference and CEO Panel Discussion, hosted by AHK Southern Africa in collaboration with KPMG. The event offered members and stakeholders an opportunity to engage directly with the survey results, with a particular focus on South Africa as the region’s largest and most influential economy.

The panel discussion brought together senior business leaders and decision-makers, including SAGCC Board Members Mr Peter van Binsbergen, Mr Mpho Toolo, Ms Saloshni Pillay, and CEO Ms Simone Pohl, alongside Mr Benedikt Herles from KPMG Germany. The discussion enabled an open exchange on economic conditions, investment sentiment, and the evolving business environment in Southern Africa, while allowing attendees to raise questions and share perspectives.

Key Survey Insights

The survey results indicate cautious optimism among German companies operating in South Africa following the country’s 2024 national elections. 64% of surveyed companies expect rising revenues in South Africa in 2025, while 58% anticipate revenue growth across the broader Southern African region. Profit expectations are similarly positive, with 48% of companies in South Africa and 35% in the wider region expecting profits to increase.

Investment sentiment remains strong in South Africa, with 44% of companies planning investments within the next three years, and 10% indicating planned investments of at least EUR 3 million.

To view the Business Outlook Results scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)



While investment momentum in the wider Southern African region is more subdued, South Africa continues to stand out as a preferred investment destination and regional anchor market.

The survey further highlights improving confidence in the economic environment, with 77% of respondents expecting the economic climate in South Africa to improve, albeit with most anticipating moderate rather than rapid progress. Companies identified political stability, reduced bureaucracy, and stronger anti-corruption measures as the most critical drivers for future growth.

Strategic Importance of South Africa

The findings reaffirm South Africa's role as a gateway to sub-Saharan Africa. 44% of respondents cited access to regional markets as a key locational advantage, while others highlighted the strength of local supplier ecosystems and regulatory frameworks. Trade frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) were also recognised as positive enablers for regional business activity.

The Business Outlook event and survey together reinforced the importance of ongoing dialogue between business and policymakers. By providing data-driven insights and a platform for discussion, the German–Southern African Business Outlook continues to support informed decision-making, encourage investment, and strengthen economic cooperation between Germany and Southern Africa.

German–Southern African Business Outlook 2025

Key Findings at a Glance (Annual Report Summary)

The German–Southern African Business Outlook 2025, conducted by KPMG Germany and AHK Southern Africa, highlights a cautiously optimistic outlook among German companies operating in the region.

- 64% of German companies in South Africa expect revenue growth in 2025
- 48% expect profits to increase in South Africa
- 44% plan to invest in South Africa within the next three years, with 10% investing at least EUR 3 million
- 77% anticipate an improvement in the economic environment, primarily at a moderate pace
- Key growth drivers: political stability (50%), reduced bureaucracy (44%), and stronger anti-corruption measures (35%)
- Top expectations from government: combating corruption and crime (46% each) and modernising infrastructure (39%)

The survey underscores South Africa's continued attractiveness as an investment destination and regional gateway, while highlighting the importance of sustained reform, infrastructure development, and policy certainty to unlock long-term growth potential.



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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY REPORT

This year marked a critical foundational phase for strengthening the Chamber’s advocacy work. Our Board, Advisory Board, members and expanded partner network played an essential role in helping us build a foundation for our advocacy work that is responsive, evidence-based, and aligned with the broader priorities shaping German Southern African economic relations.



A major milestone this year was the successful launch of the Business Outlook Survey which we successfully did in collaboration with KPMG Germany. This will now be an annual instrument and has already strengthened the grounding of our advocacy work by providing clear, data-driven insights into market sentiment, operational challenges, and investment trends from the perspective of our member companies.

The survey now serves as a core tool for shaping our engagements with our members, ministries, agencies, and general chamber work. We aim to continue to strengthen this instrument and its usefulness throughout 2026.





A significant portion of our work this year focused on the ease of doing business in South Africa, a central concern for our members. We approached this through multiple formats, including quarterly exchanges with the international chambers, which facilitated coordinated discussions on:

- Investment opportunities
- Regulatory and operational challenges affecting our member companies
- Broader systemic hurdles that continue to impact competitiveness and investor confidence

Throughout the year, we intentionally organized a series of strategic engagements with key ministries including Home Affairs, Trade, Industry & Competition, and Electricity & Energy as well as with provincial leadership in Gauteng and the Western Cape during delegations. These included a Business Luncheon with Minister Leon Schreiber, which provided valuable insights into current visa processes, upcoming developments, and the path ahead for businesses; a Business Luncheon with Minister Parks Tau themed “Positioning for the Future: German Industry and the Evolving Trade Landscape in South Africa” and a high-level business event on Electricity Market and Government with Deputy Minister Samantha Graham-Maré, featuring a moderated discussion by our colleague Jens Hauser on whether loadshedding is truly a thing of the past, the liberalization of the electricity market, and ongoing energy policy and market reforms.



2025 also gave us an opportunity to have deepened coordination with international chambers to foster a more collaborative advocacy ecosystem, giving us an expanded network to leverage and significantly strengthen our collective advocacy and collaborative efforts as a business community.



We concluded the year with strong momentum by hosting the SAFRI (Subsahara Afrika Initiative) delegation during the week of the B20 Summit in Johannesburg. AHK Southern Africa participated in the B20 South Africa Summit alongside the SAFRI delegation, including Dr. Volker Treier, Chief Executive of Foreign Trade and Member of the Executive Board of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK).



The delegation's timely presence enabled a series of focused strategic engagements on the margins of the summit, reinforcing Germany's role as a reliable and forward-looking partner for Southern Africa in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.

The B20 Summit convened over 2,000 global business leaders for discussions characterized by urgency and a shared recognition that the global economic order is undergoing significant structural shifts. Against a backdrop of rising geopolitical uncertainty, deliberations highlighted the importance of practical cooperation, predictable regulatory frameworks, and partnerships that support sustainable and inclusive growth. Key themes with particular relevance for Africa's economic outlook included the centrality of critical minerals for the



next phase of industrialization, the role of digital and physical infrastructure, the mobilization of private capital, demand-driven skills development, and renewed opportunities across agribusiness, energy, tourism, and manufacturing. The strategic potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and Africa's readiness to act as a driver of global growth, featured prominently across multiple sessions.

Beyond the B20, the SAFRI delegation participated in a targeted programme of engagements, including attendance at the Bloomberg Africa Business Summit, a site visit to DHL's Midrand facility, a high-level Siemens roundtable on resilient value chains for critical raw materials, exchanges with senior officials from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, and a visit to Bayer's Crop Science research facilities highlighting continued innovation in African agriculture. The week also provided an opportunity to convene a networking reception with the German Ambassador Andreas Peschke, AHK Southern Africa Board Members, and German partner institutions. In parallel, SAFRI introduced its new paper, Africa Shift – Now, outlining proposals to strengthen and modernize economic cooperation with African partners.

On the sidelines of the G20, the Chamber, together with member company SAP, hosted a high-level business roundtable with Chancellor Friedrich Merz, bringing together leading German CEOs for a candid exchange on the business climate and South Africa's strategic role as a regional anchor market. Discussions highlighted South Africa's scale, talent base, and connectivity as factors shaping long-term investment decisions.

Chancellor Merz reaffirmed Africa's importance as a trading and investment partner for Germany and the European Union, emphasizing the need for transparent, long-term partnerships that drive local value creation and employment.

These engagements collectively reaffirmed that Germany's strategic priorities in Southern Africa remain anchored in critical raw materials, local value creation, innovation, and the future of trade; areas closely aligned with the thematic focus of both the B20 and G20 processes. This momentum coincided with the signing of the Clean Trade and Investment Partnership (CTIP) between the European Union and South Africa on the sidelines of G20, marking a new phase of cooperation centered on clean supply chains, investment, and sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, the Chamber aims to build on this incredible foundation through a more expansive regional government affairs strategy. Priorities include scaling advocacy efforts networks across the region, deepening engagement with key ministries, sharpening positioning on global strategic themes reflected in the G20 and B20 agendas, and further strengthening the Business Outlook Survey as a flagship annual business sentiment tool. Through these efforts, the Chamber will continue to support an enabling environment for investment, competitiveness, and resilient, future-oriented economic partnerships across the region.



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REPRESENTATION

FREE STATE OF BAVARIA

Freistaat Bayern
Repräsentanz Südafrika



Strengthening Ties: Successful Political and Economic Engagements throughout 2025

2025 marked a strong year for Bavaria's political and economic engagement with South Africa. Following the conclusion of Ms Simone Pohl's term as Bavarian Representative in October, Ms Dambisa Dube supported the office in an interim economic representative role until year-end. The representation will be assumed by Ms Dambisa Dube in 2026.

South Africa remains a strategically important partner for Bavaria. To support Bavarian member companies, the Bavarian Representative Office hosted a Bavarian Round Table, bringing together key partners from the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA). Representatives provided updates on business retention initiatives and offered practical support in response to company-specific challenges.

A key focus throughout the year was the water sector. From 7–11 July, a Bavarian delegation led by Vice Minister Tobias Gotthardt visited Gauteng and the Western Cape, combining high-level political meetings with targeted economic engagements in environmental technologies.

In Gauteng, Vice Minister Gotthardt and Simone Pohl met with Minister Parks Tau (dtic) and MEC Lebogang Maile to discuss concrete measures to strengthen cooperation, improve the business climate, and unlock opportunities for trade and investment. The accompanying economic delegation focused on water, wastewater, and the circular economy and participated in a tailored programme, including a site visit to KSB Pumps and Valves and engagement at IFAT Africa 2025.

A highlight at IFAT Africa was the panel discussion on innovative approaches to water conservation, featuring Vice Minister Gotthardt, Western Cape Minister Anton Bredell, and Bavarian and South African industry representatives, underscoring the importance of technology-driven collaboration.

Engagements continued in Cape Town with meetings hosted by Western Cape Minister Dr Ivan Meyer and a Bavarian evening reception attended by six provincial ministers. Further programme elements included project visits, business networking, and a closing session at HOPE Cape Town's Bayerisches Haus.

These political and economic engagements underscored the strength of regional partnerships and the value of sustained dialogue in driving innovation, investment, and long-term cooperation. The delegation week reaffirmed Bavaria's commitment to deepening its relationship with South Africa.

In parallel, a four-part Bavarian webinar series in the lead-up to IFAT Africa 2025 explored South Africa's water challenges and opportunities, highlighting the role of Bavarian–South African collaboration in advancing water security and sustainable industrial growth.

The first webinar set the scene, outlining South Africa's fragile water sector and the potential for German technologies to support long-term solutions. Companies such as PPU Umwelttechnik and Vision Green Solutions demonstrated how local partnerships and "boots on the ground" approaches build lasting project pipelines. The second session, No Water, No Production! focused on industrial water management amid rising water shedding in Gauteng, featuring insights from Memcon, Talbot, and several Bavarian innovators on mitigating "Day Zero" risks.

The third webinar addressed Sustainable Water Supply and Public Wastewater Treatment, spotlighting Cape Town’s infrastructure plans and lessons from Germany’s Gersthofen plant on managing skills and efficiency gaps. Finally, the fourth session examined Water Management in the Mining Sector, exploring how mine-impacted water could augment South Africa’s supply mix. Participants underscored trust, certification, and transparency as essential to public acceptance of treated water solutions.

To view the Portfolio Water Management page scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)



Bavaria in the Western Cape

This year was particularly noteworthy as the partnership between the Free State of Bavaria and the Western Cape celebrated its 30th anniversary. The official commemoration took place on 4 November 2025 in Cape Town, marking three decades of bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, education, innovation, and sustainable development. Minister-President Dr Markus Söder attended this celebration as well as the Regional Leaders Summit held in Cape Town from 2nd – 4th of November, where he met with Bavarian companies alongside Ambassador Andreas Peschke, Consul General Tanja Wehrheit, and the AHK Southern Africa Western Cape Regional Office Head Anja Tambusso-Ferraz. His presence highlighted Bavaria’s commitment to strengthening bilateral economic relations and supporting companies in navigating South Africa’s evolving political and economic landscape.

Study Tour of the Western Cape Minister of Economic Development to Bavaria

From 4–9 August 2025, Dr Ivan Meyer, Western Cape Minister of Economic Development, Agriculture, and Tourism, undertook a study tour to Munich organized by the Hanns Seidel Foundation. The visit formed part of the 30-year partnership between Bavaria, the Western Cape, and the Hanns Seidel Foundation and aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic development and agriculture.

The programme included high-level meetings with the Federation of German Industries (BDI), vbw – the Bavarian Industry Association, and the Bavarian Ministries of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, focusing on trade, investment, and future collaboration. Visits to Bavarian companies, especially SMEs active in the Western Cape, provided insights into technologies, business models, and partnership opportunities. Agricultural cooperation was a further focus, with sector-specific exchanges supported by industry representatives, reinforcing the strategic importance of this sector for both regions.

Bavaria at Africa Tech Festival 2025

Bavaria participated for the third time in AfricaCom 2025, part of the Africa Tech Festival, where global innovation converged in Cape Town. The Bavarian Pavilion showcased six pioneering exhibitors, each presenting cutting-edge solutions in key technology sectors. These included advancements in network automation, global connectivity, AI-driven video communication, satellite-based data services, and intelligent enterprise transformation.

The presence of Bavarian companies highlighted the region’s commitment to fostering international partnerships and driving technological progress in Africa’s rapidly evolving digital landscape. The pavilion served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration, reinforcing Bavaria’s role as a leader in innovation and digital transformation.

Visit of Bavarian Parliamentary Delegation to the Western Cape

From November 17 to 21, 2025, a Bavarian parliamentary delegation visited the Western Cape Province in South Africa. The delegation was led by Mr. Alexander Flierl, Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection of the Bavarian State Parliament and included six additional committee members. The visit was organized with the support of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, which assisted in developing a comprehensive program focused on environmental cooperation.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen bilateral relations and exchange expertise on critical environmental issues. The program featured a series of bilateral discussions and site visits to projects and facilities addressing water and waste management, as well as broader environmental challenges. These engagements provided the delegation with valuable insights into local initiatives and opportunities for collaboration between Bavaria and the Western Cape.

A highlight of the visit was the economic overview presented by Jens Hauser during a networking event, who outlined the current economic landscape of South Africa and emphasized areas of potential cooperation with Bavarian stakeholders. Discussions provided context for discussions on investment opportunities, particularly in sectors related to environmental technologies and sustainable development. This informal setting allowed for in-depth conversations on topics such as the involvement of German companies in South Africa’s environmental sector and the Just Energy Transition. These discussions were instrumental in identifying synergies and fostering stronger ties between the two regions. The visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of

Bavaria and the Western Cape to address environmental challenges collaboratively. It also opened avenues for future partnerships in water management, waste reduction, and renewable energy, contributing to sustainable development goals in both regions

Looking ahead, the water, energy, and the tech sector will continue to be a focal point for Bavarian companies in 2026. South Africa remains Bavaria's most important trading partner on the African continent, offering strong potential for investment, innovation, and long-term partnership.



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REPRESENTATION

Baden-Württemberg



Since 1 June 2019, the AHK Southern Africa has served as the official Economic Representative of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg in South Africa, and the Southern African region. This representation is supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg. In 2025, a new Economic Representative was chosen for this representation: Ms Alexa Gerrard. Alexa is supported by our Baden-Württemberg Scout, Ms Danilla van Jaarsveldt.

Through its offices in Johannesburg and Durban, the AHK Southern Africa promotes and strengthens economic cooperation between companies and organisations in Baden-Württemberg and Southern Africa. The Chamber provides first-hand market information, local expertise, and access to a well-established network of contacts. These services help create and expand sustainable business opportunities for companies on both sides.

Particular attention is given to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Baden-Württemberg by offering information on market potential, facilitating local connections, and providing guidance on events and support programmes to ensure a successful market entry and long-term growth in southern Africa.

Key highlights from 2025 included:

Chemical Operations Training Programme in KwaZulu-Natal

The Chemical Operations Training Programme is a pioneering skills development initiative launched to strengthen the talent pipeline for KwaZulu-Natal's chemical sector. Developed by the Durban Chemicals Cluster (DCC) in partnership with the AHK Southern Africa and Scientec Education and Training, the programme is financially supported by the Chemical Industries Education & Training Authority (CHIE-TA) and of the State of Baden-Württemberg.



The programme was officially launched on 23 April 2025 at the Maharani Hotel in Durban, marking the beginning of a new era in industry-aligned vocational training for the region. Implementation is jointly managed with BM Analysts (BMA), who support the coordination of programme activities on behalf of the DCC.

Branded as Project Asambe, the initiative introduces an innovative, industry-driven training model tailored to the needs of the local chemical sector. As the first programme of its kind in the province, it provides a strong foundation for future workforce development initiatives and serves as a potential blueprint for replication.

Exploring Opportunities in the Water Sector:

Baden-Württemberg Delegation Visits South Africa

From 4 to 9 May 2025, a business delegation from Baden-Württemberg, Germany, visited Johannesburg and Durban to explore collaboration opportunities in water and wastewater management. The mission was coordinated by Baden-Württemberg International (BW-i), organised by the AHK Southern Africa, and supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg.

The aim of the visit was to foster bilateral exchange, build networks with local stakeholders, and initiate sustainable business partnerships in the water sector. The programme began in Johannesburg with an official welcome and an economic briefing on the regional context. Delegates then visited key infrastructure sites, including the acid mine drainage treatment facility operated by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) and the wastewater treatment facility managed by Interwaste. A highlight of the mission was the specialist conference, “Innovative Water Management for a Sustainable Future: German-South African Perspectives.” The event brought together stakeholders from business, academia, and government, providing a platform for expert presentations, panel discussions, company showcases, and targeted matchmaking sessions to facilitate collaboration.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the delegation continued with company visits, including to Siza Water and the recycling facility operated by Alpla. The programme concluded with a strategic roundtable discussion involving regional partners and an official networking reception celebrating the long-standing partnership between Baden-Württemberg and KwaZulu-Natal.

The visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of both regions to addressing current challenges in the water sector through innovation, sustainability, and close international cooperation.



FACIM Trade Fair – Maputo

At the FACIM trade fair in Maputo, Alexa Gerrard and Danilla van Jaarsveldt had the pleasure of engaging with a range of innovative German companies and hosting a roundtable discussion with businesses from Baden-Württemberg.

The discussions provided valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges present in the Mozambican market. Together, we explored how the State of Baden-Württemberg’s economic representatives and the AHK Southern Africa can best support companies in expanding their activities and partnerships in the region.

The day concluded on a high note with a Baden-Württemberg Evening hosted at the German Ambassador’s residence, featuring Schwarzwald Gin, Maultaschen, and Käsespätzle—a true taste of home. The event offered an excellent platform to connect with the Mozambican Minister of Communication and Digital Transformation, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Economics, and leading figures from the business community.



Baden-Württemberg Delegation to Namibia

From 7 to 12 September 2025, Danilla van Jaarsveldt, accompanied a delegation trip to Namibia, visiting Walvis Bay and Windhoek. The delegation was organized by Baden-Württemberg International (BW_i) and supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg.

Namibia is regarded as one of the world’s most promising countries for the production of green hydrogen, and the visit provided participating companies from Baden-Württemberg with the opportunity

to experience this potential firsthand. The program included visits to the Daures Green Hydrogen Village, Cleanergy Solutions Namibia, and the Port of Walvis Bay, and culminated in a two-day participation at the Global African Hydrogen Summit in Windhoek. The summit offered the delegation a valuable platform to network with African and international stakeholders from politics, business, and industry.

A key highlight of the trip was a business networking event hosted by Hyphen Hydrogen Energy. The event featured keynote presentations on the development of Namibia's green hydrogen sector, as well as elevator pitches by German and Namibian companies.



Roundtable: Baden-Württemberg companies in South Africa

On 15 October 2025, the Baden-Württemberg Representation hosted its first Baden-Württemberg Roundtable at the Chamber. All member companies from Baden-Württemberg operating in South Africa were invited to participate. The objective of the Roundtable was to strengthen engagement with our members in the region and to highlight the representation and support services offered by the Baden-Württemberg Representation. The discussion focused on the challenges faced by companies in the South African market and explored potential areas of collaboration and assistance.



The event was a great success, with highly positive feedback from attendees. The open exchange among participating companies, particularly regarding shared challenges and practical solutions, proved to be extremely valuable. As a result of this success, it was decided to establish the Roundtable as a quarterly working group, providing a continuous platform for dialogue and collaboration. Each session will focus on a specific theme and include relevant external stakeholders. Participating companies included Zeiss, Pepperl & Fuchs, Vega, Lapp, Bizerba, and Hege.

Webinar: Business Opportunities in Namibia's Energy and Hydrogen Market

On the 28th October 2025, the SAGCC in collaboration with Baden-Württemberg International, hosted a Webinar on the Business Opportunities in Namibia's Energy and Hydrogen Market. Speakers included Johannes Michels from Hylron, Jenny Tala from Germany Trade and Invest, the German Embassy and the AHK Southern Africa.



Webinar: Opportunities for Craft Businesses from Baden-Württemberg in Sub-Saharan Africa

On the 29th October, we had the privilege to present the various business opportunities in the South African and Namibian Circular Economy, Waste, Recycling and Construction Sectors.



Baden-Württemberg Visit

During her visit to Baden-Württemberg, Danilla van Jaarsveldt, participated in a series of high-level events aimed at fostering economic and educational collaboration between the region and Southern Africa. The visit began on 10 November at the Internationale Beratungstag at the IHK Stuttgart, where Danilla van Jaarsveldt held 11 B2B meetings with companies expressing interest in entering the South African market.

On 12 November, Danilla van Jaarsveldt joined the "Karriere im Schloss" event at the Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, where she, together with the BW Wirtschaftsministerium, spoke to eight groups of young people about working in the ministry's international department and the role of the BW representation in South Africa in supporting regional companies entering the Southern African market.



THE LÄND



Meeting of Baden-Württemberg's Foreign Representations (Stuttgart)

From 1 to 4 December 2025, Alexa Gerrard and Danilla Van Jaarsveldt represented Southern Africa at the annual meeting of Baden-Württemberg's foreign representations in Stuttgart. The programme focused on strengthening international cooperation and advancing innovation-driven economic partnerships. Key components included an exchange with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism, including discussions with Minister Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut. Further highlights were a visit to IPAI in Heilbronn, which provided insights into the development of a European artificial intelligence ecosystem with relevance for South Africa, as well as discussions and a site visit at Festo, underscoring Africa's strategic importance as a growth market.

In addition, a joint brainstorming session with Elvin Yilmaz and Christina Pfannkuchen explored new cooperation formats for 2026 in collaboration with Baden-Württemberg International (BW_i).

Overall, the visit contributed to deepening institutional relationships, identifying future areas for collaboration, and reinforcing Southern Africa's role within Baden-Württemberg's international network.



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REPRESENTATION

State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen/Thuringia International)



2025 was a year of remarkable progress for Thuringia’s internationalisation efforts in Southern Africa, marked by strategic engagements, innovation-driven partnerships, and a strong focus on deep tech and startup ecosystems.

As the official representative of LEG Thüringen in the region, our mission was clear: to connect Thuringia’s advanced industries and research capabilities with Africa’s dynamic growth markets, creating pathways for collaboration in technology, investment, and talent development.



The year began in **March** with our active participation in the **Thüringer Außenwirtschaftstag (AWT)**, a flagship event that brought together global market experts and Thuringian enterprises. South Africa featured prominently in discussions on internationalisation strategies, AI applications, and talent pipelines for tech sectors. We engaged in one-on-one consultations, delivered market insights, and joined site visits to leading institutions such as **Fraunhofer IDMT** and **K-UTEC AG Salt Technologies**, reinforcing Thuringia’s reputation as a hub for innovation and engineering excellence.

In June, South Africa took center stage as the official partner country for **Investor Days Thuringia (IDT)**. We supported South African startup pitches, enabling entrepreneurs to showcase cutting-edge solutions in BioTech and AI driven Security Solutions to European investors. The collaboration between STIFT, bm|t, and LEG Thüringen not only saw contacts and collaborations being created but also strengthened the SA–Thuringia innovation bridge, laying the foundation for long-term partnerships.





The momentum continued into **November**, when we led the official **Thuringian business delegation to the Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town**. Africa Tech Festival is the continent’s premier technology event, and our delegation engaged directly with global thought leaders and innovators on themes such as **responsible innovation, inclusive investment, and policy harmonisation**. Beyond the conference, we curated a robust programme of site visits and networking engagements with key South African stakeholders, including **Wesgro, Innovation City Cape Town, LaunchLab, Rheinmetall-Denel, Simera Sense, and Wagner Systems**. These interactions opened doors for collaboration in **SpaceTech, AI, advanced manufacturing**, and defense technologies, areas where Thuringia’s expertise aligns with Africa’s emerging needs.

Networking was a cornerstone of this mission. From vibrant exchanges at “Tech Connect Cape Town – Bridging Innovation with Germany” on ACCSO’s rooftop terrasse to an inspiring strategy session at **Babylonstoren**, we fostered trust-based relationships that often spark breakthrough ideas. Conversations with space-tech pioneers and deep-tech innovators reinforced our shared vision: to create bridges between Thuringia’s research-driven economy and Africa’s fast-evolving technology landscape.

Throughout the year, our focus remained on **deep tech and space technology**, leveraging Thuringia’s strengths in optics, sensors, and AI to meet Africa’s demand for connectivity and advanced solutions. By engaging with Africa’s most dynamic innovation hubs, we showcased Thuringia as a trusted partner for joint ventures, R&D collaborations, and startup exchanges.

2025 was not just a year of activity—it was a year of impact. We strengthened bilateral ties, supported investment leads, and showcased Thuringia’s innovation potential on a global stage.

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible LEG Thüringen team, my Chamber colleagues, and our local partners, in particular Wesgro, UVU Africa, Innovation City, DEDAT, for their outstanding collaboration and unwavering support throughout the year.



Anja Tambusso-Ferraz

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CHAMBER OFFICES

Cape Town

2025 was a landmark year for the Western Cape Regional Office, marked by strategic engagements, high-level delegations, and impactful events that strengthened the economic and innovation bridge between South Africa and Germany.

Cape Town Office 25th Anniversary

The year commenced with the **25th Anniversary of the AHK Southern Africa Cape Town Office** in January, celebrating a quarter-century of bilateral trade facilitation and partnership-building. This milestone reaffirmed our commitment to advancing regional collaborations, partnerships and investment.



B20 South Africa Launch

In February, the Western Cape Regional Office was honoured to be part of two high-impact initiatives that reinforced our commitment to fostering international collaboration and investment. The first was the **B20 South Africa Launch**, where international business interests within global policy dialogues were showcased. South African and Western Cape priorities—spanning trade, sustainability, and digital transformation—were effectively represented in B20 task force discussions.



Shortly thereafter, we were part of the **EU Chambers/Wesgro Annual Trade & Investment Breakfast**, a flagship event that brought together provincial leadership, EU ambassadors, and key industry stakeholders. The discussions spotlighted strategic opportunities in green hydrogen, battery manufacturing, port performance, and tourism. Our team secured a strong German participation and visibility, underscoring the Chamber's role as a trusted facilitator of bilateral economic engagement.



March featured our active representation at the **Thüringer Außenwirtschaftstag**, where we advised Thuringian companies on market entry strategies and strengthened collaboration with LEG Thüringen and Thuringia International.

In April, we hosted a **Tech Roundtable with BMDS Representatives**, advancing digital policy alignment ahead of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group and exploring collaboration in AI, startups, and digital public infrastructure.



May brought the **Annual Ball of HOPE**, a cornerstone CSR initiative that raised significant funds for youth and skills programmes while engaging German and local corporate sponsors.

June was a particularly dynamic month, marked by two significant engagements in mobility and innovation. We saw the **Western Cape Government Port & Mobility Delegation to Bremen** materialize, with our colleagues from the Chamber of Commerce Bremen facilitating an in-depth knowledge exchange on port efficiency and mobility policy. This initiative connected Bremen's leading stakeholders with Western Cape priorities, laying the groundwork for collaborative solutions to enhance regional logistics and infrastructure performance.



At the same time, we played a central role in **South African Startup Pitches at Investor Days Thuringia**, where a cohort of innovative South African startups in BioTech and Security Technology sectors showcased their solutions to European investors, catalysing new partnerships and reinforcing the SA–Thuringia innovation bridges. The event not only highlighted the strength of South Africa’s entrepreneurial ecosystem but also positioned the Western Cape as a key gateway for technology partnerships between Africa and Europe.



In July, we supported the Bavaria Delegation at IFAT, advancing collaboration in water, waste, and circular economy technologies.

August was defined by two high-profile engagements that underscored our commitment to fostering strategic partnerships. We supported Minister Ivan Meyer’s visit to Bavaria, Berlin, and Hannover, facilitating programmes that were organised by the HSF and KAS, that focused on agri-tech, investment promotion, and strengthening institutional ties.

In Cape Town, we hosted a very successful and vibrant **Member Network Event with Executive Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis**, creating an important platform for dialogue on the city’s investment climate and infrastructure priorities.



September continued this momentum with a series of policy-driven engagements. We met with the **Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Digitales**, represented by Dr. Franziska Armbruster, to advance a digital cooperation agenda between Bavaria and the Western Cape. This was complemented by the visit of BMDS for the G20 Digital Economy Working Group, aligning regional initiatives with global themes on artificial intelligence and digital public infrastructure.



Additionally, we engaged with **Bundestag Vice President Mr. Omid Nouripour** during the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, reinforcing parliamentary relationships and opening new pathways for bilateral collaboration.



In October, we welcomed **Hessen Trade and Invest to Cape Town**, exploring investment opportunities and cooperation frameworks across manufacturing, ICT, and life sciences sectors.

November was the most dynamic month of the year, featuring multiple flagship initiatives. The **Regional Leaders' Summit** celebrated three decades of partnership between the Western Cape and Bavaria and marked the renewal of the Joint Action Plan for future collaboration.



Shortly thereafter, the **Western Cape Investment Summit** mobilised local and international investors and curated sector-specific engagements to accelerate deal-making.

We also hosted the **Thuringia Delegation** for an intensive inbound programme focused on technology, innovation, high precision engineering and deep tech, complemented by a roundtable at HOPE Cape Town with Steffen Kampeter of the BDA and our CG Tanja Werheit to connect employer federation insights to workforce development strategies.





The **Africa Tech Festival** capped the year, where Bavaria had a Joint Pavilion for the third time and where the Western Cape was once again showcased as Africa's tech capital, leveraging themes of responsible innovation, inclusive investment, and policy harmonisation.

The impact of these efforts speaks for itself and is cementing 2025 as a year of growth, collaboration, and strategic positioning for the Western Cape Regional Office.

Looking ahead to 2026, our priorities include deepening cooperation in infrastructure development, digital transformation, deep tech, startup ecosystems and converting investment leads into tangible projects.

A heartfelt thank you to my incredible Chamber colleagues, the Western Cape Government, Wesgro, the City of Cape Town, and our valued partners and stakeholders in Germany for their exceptional collaboration and strong partnerships throughout the year. Your commitment and support have been instrumental in driving our shared success.



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CHAMBER OFFICES

Durban Office: KwaZulu-Natal

Since its establishment in March 2012, the German Chamber's regional office in Durban has been dedicated to supporting its members and clients throughout the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) region. KZN presents a dynamic business environment with strong potential across various sectors, including industrial manufacturing, the harbour economy, logistics, renewable energy, food and agriculture, as well as water and energy.

The Chamber remains committed to expanding and strengthening its regional networks to provide tailored support for fostering bilateral business relations. Core activities include the organisation of networking and informational events, the provision of specialised services, and the facilitation of business delegations to and from the region.

Key highlights from 2025 included:

Strengthening Textile Industry Ties: German Delegation Visit

The AHK Southern Africa was proud to welcome a high-level delegation of seven leading German textile machinery companies to Johannesburg and Durban from 24 to 28 March 2025. Organised in close cooperation with the VDMA Textile Machinery Association and SBS Systems for Business Solutions GmbH, this initiative showcased the strength of German engineering excellence and its relevance to the revitalisation of South Africa's textile and apparel sector.

The visiting German companies are internationally recognised for their advanced technologies, high-precision components, and integrated systems. They play an important role throughout the entire textile value chain, from spinning and weaving to finishing and quality control. Their solutions help manufacturers improve productivity, use resources more efficiently, and stay competitive in global markets.

The programme kicked off in Johannesburg with a market briefing, hosted in partnership with the German Embassy and Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI). This set the scene for an engaging Roundtable and Networking Event, where delegates exchanged insights with South African industry leaders and government stakeholders. Discussions focused on the current state of the local textile industry, its growth potential, and policy efforts to drive industrial renewal.





In Durban, a second roundtable highlighted regional efforts to revive KwaZulu-Natal's historic textile corridor, with emphasis on infrastructure investment, skills development, and public-private partnerships. The programme culminated in a well-attended conference at The Capital Pearls Hotel, bringing together representatives from business, academia, and government to explore synergies between German innovation and South African manufacturing goals. A particular highlight of the Durban leg was a series of productive B2B meetings and site visits to Beier Group and Brits Non-Woven, where delegates gained firsthand insights into local production strengths, workforce capabilities, and collaboration opportunities in technology, automation, and sustainability.

This exchange not only deepened bilateral industrial relations but also reaffirmed the role of the Southern African-German Chamber as a trusted platform for facilitating knowledge transfer, business partnerships, and long-term investment in regional value chains.

Launch of Industry Readiness Training Programme in KwaZulu-Natal

On 23 April 2025, the Industry Readiness Training Programme, branded as Project Asambe, was officially launched at the Maharani Hotel in Durban. This groundbreaking initiative aims to build a skilled talent pipeline for KwaZulu-Natal's chemical sector through an innovative, industry-aligned training model.

Developed by the Durban Chemicals Cluster (DCC) in collaboration with the AHK Southern Africa and Scientec Education and Training, the programme is supported by CHIETA and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of the State of Baden-Württemberg. Implementation is managed in partnership with BM Analysts (BMA).

As the first programme of its kind in the province, Project Asambe lays the groundwork for future workforce development and serves as a replicable model for skills training across the region.



Strengthening Water Sector Ties in KwaZulu-Natal

As part of a broader visit to South Africa, a business delegation from Baden-Württemberg, Germany, travelled to KwaZulu-Natal in May 2025 to explore collaboration in water and wastewater management. The visit was organised by Baden-Württemberg International (BW-i) in partnership with the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAGCC), and supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the delegation visited key sites including Siza Water and the Alpha recycling facility, gaining valuable insights into local innovations and infrastructure. A strategic roundtable with regional stakeholders provided space for dialogue on sector challenges, investment opportunities, and potential areas for partnership.

The visit concluded with an official reception that celebrated the ongoing economic cooperation agreement between Baden-Württemberg and KwaZulu-Natal, underscoring both regions' commitment to sustainable development, innovation, and mutual economic growth in the water sector.



German Vice-Chancellor Visits Durban for G20 Finance Track

As part of the G20 Finance Track under South Africa's G20 Presidency, German Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil visited Durban in July, reaffirming Germany's strong and growing partnership with the African continent.

Beyond the G20 engagements, the Vice-Chancellor met with German companies invested in South Africa, facilitating an open dialogue on the current economic climate, investment conditions, and shared opportunities for growth and collaboration.

The visit concluded with a tour of the Port of Durban, led by the Harbour Master, underscoring the strategic importance of logistics infrastructure in enabling trade, regional connectivity, and long-term economic growth. Germany continues to stand alongside Africa in the effort to build a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global economy.



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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Regional Coordination

The AHK Southern Africa maintained a strong presence in the region, with our activities in 2024/2025 mainly focused on the markets of Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, as well as Zimbabwe and Zambia.

In May 2025, the AHK Southern Africa attended the first European Union–Zimbabwe Business Forum, held at the Hyatt Regency in Harare. The aim of the event was to diversify and boost trade between Zimbabwe and the EU, maximise the benefits of the existing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), provide a platform for business-to-government dialogue to improve the business environment, and promote foreign direct investment in Zimbabwe’s focus sectors — horticulture and agro-processing, renewable energy, and the mining value chain. Zimbabwe offers promising business opportunities in these sectors, while the EU provides a range of financial guarantees to de-risk investments in challenging markets.

As in previous years, the AHK Southern Africa supported the preparation and implementation of the German Pavilion at FACIM 2025, Mozambique’s largest corporate and business exhibition. FACIM took place from 25 to 31 August in Maputo, with 13 German companies exhibiting at the German Pavilion, including several AHK Southern Africa member firms.



TVET Business Breakfast, 11th September at the Arebbusch Travel Lodge

From 9 to 12 September 2025, the AHK Southern Africa, in partnership with Afrika-Verein, embarked on a successful business delegation to Windhoek, Namibia, focusing on training and vocational education in the energy and green hydrogen sector. The delegation attended the 2nd Global African Green Hydrogen Summit and hosted an engaging TVET Business Breakfast on 11 September. The visit concluded with the Supplier Connect event of Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, Namibia’s largest green hydrogen project.



Signing of the Multilateral MoU at the Hyphen Supplier Connect Event

At the event, AHK Southern Africa, Afrika-Verein, and the Business Association of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hyphen, committing to support Hyphen’s Enterprise and Supplier Development (ESD) Programme. The ESD aims to strengthen the capacity of local Namibian businesses, enabling their participation in the emerging green hydrogen value chain, while fostering Namibian–German business partnerships — in particular, supporting German SMEs in entering the Namibian market. The signing ceremony was chaired by Namibia’s Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Mines and Energy, the Honourable Ms. Gaudentia Kröhne.



On the 28th October 2025, Interim CEO Alexa Gerrard and Jenny Tala, Director Southern Africa at Germany Trade and Invest, travelled to Gaborone, Botswana to brief German Minister of State, Serap Güler, on the political and economic situation in Botswana, together with the German Embassy. This political visit to Botswana was the first high ranking visit in 7 years.

In 2025, 4 delegation trips were organised to the southern African region. The countries visited were Angola, Zambia, and Namibia.



To further support German companies seeking to enter southern African markets, AHK Southern Africa has registered as a consulting firm listed by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) under the “[Beratungsgutscheine Afrika](#)” programme.

Through this funding mechanism, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) enables German companies to make use of external advisory service providers, such as the SAGCC, for a range of consultancy services aimed at successfully planning and implementing their business projects in Africa.

For more information on the Consultancy Vouchers please scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)



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Maputo, Mozambique

Mozambique continues to be a strategically positioned country with relevance for the German economy, both as a regional market and as a supplier of energy, raw materials, and agricultural products, as well as a logistics gateway for Southern Africa. Its geostrategical role is constantly increasing and should not be underestimated, offering various business opportunities for the German Mittelstand.

Following the political and economic tensions surrounding the elections in late 2024, the year 2025 was characterized by a gradual stabilization of economic activity, a clear political will in several reforms not just towards a better business and investment-environment and a renewed engagement between public institutions and the private sector. While structural challenges remained, business operations in sectors such as industry, logistics, ports, services, and energy showed signs of recovery.

The political will in strengthening and dynamization of industrialization also as local content development and increased efforts toward digitalization in politics and the economy, where important steps enabled not just by revision of fundamental laws as well as new packages of measures to modernize and reduce bureaucracy in key economic policy bodies and to combat corruption.

International interest in Mozambique persisted, particularly in the fields of energy, mining, infrastructure, blue economy and logistics, underlining the country's medium- to long-term relevance for German companies.

Role of the AHK Southern Africa

In 2025, the AHK Representation continued to act as the local representation of the German economy, supporting German companies active in the country as well as those exploring market opportunities, among others through the constant and regular provision of information about the Mozambique market, through lectures, events, and intensive networking with political and economic partners on site and in Germany.

The activities focused on:

- Representing German economic interests in Mozambique
- Facilitating dialogue between German companies and Mozambican public and private stakeholders
- Providing market-related information and local expertise



AHK Southern Africa Activities and Focus Areas in Mozambique 2025

Business Dialogue and Networking
Throughout 2025, the AHK Southern Africa Representation supported structured business dialogue and networking formats aimed at fostering exchange and cooperation between German and Mozambican stakeholders. These activities addressed relevant economic sectors and business-related topics, reflecting the needs of companies operating in the Mozambican market. A specific Meeting with the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Daniel Chapo, in his Office on 13.02.2025 together with 7 German Enterprises in Maputo was just one of the highlights, underlining the great political interest Mozambique`s in deepening the economic cooperation with Germany.

Trade Fairs and Market Presence

Trade fairs continued to serve as an important instrument for visibility, networking, and market access. Building on previous experience, the AHK Southern Africa Representation supported German participation in selected trade fair formats, including the German Pavilion at FACIM International Fair, in cooperation with Mozambican partner institutions such as APIEX. Attention was given to linking trade fair participation with follow-up activities and business-oriented exchanges.



Business Dialogue with the President of the Republic of Mozambique, 13.02.25., Maputo, Mozambique



German Pavilion with 14 German Expositors at FACIM International Fair Mozambique 2025, priced as Best International Pavilion 2025, Best and second best International Expositors (DiscObel GmbH and Mühlbauer GmbH)



Visit of the President of the Republic of Mozambique at German Pavilion FACIM

Energy, Mining and Industry

Mozambique's relevance in the fields of energy, mining, and industrial services continued to attract interest from German companies in 2025. The AHK Southern Africa Representation supported information exchange and dialogue related to these sectors, with a focus on long-term cooperation, technology solutions, and sustainable business approaches.

Logistics, Ports and Regional Connectivity

Mozambique's ports and transport corridors remained central to its role as a regional logistics hub. The AHK Southern Africa Representation engaged with stakeholders from the logistics and infrastructure sectors and supported German companies interested in port-related services, logistics solutions, and regional connectivity, including dialogue with operators such as DP World and German Logistic Specialists in Mozambique, like DHL.

Market Intelligence and Communication

In 2025, the AHK Southern Africa Representation continued to provide market information and economic updates to German companies and institutions. The focus was placed on delivering well-contextualized insights into economic developments, regulatory frameworks, and sector-specific conditions in Mozambique. New in 2025: Monthly Business Environment Reports from Mozambique.

Outlook

Despite ongoing challenges, 2025 reaffirmed Mozambique's long-term economic potential and its relevance for German business engagement. The AHK Southern Africa will continue to serve as a reliable point of contact for German companies, supporting dialogue, market access, and sustainable economic cooperation.



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THE X7
BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE





THE 7
BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE



Lusaka, Zambia

At the start of 2025, Zambia continued to navigate the economic and environmental challenges inherited from the previous years. The government's fiscal reform efforts and debt-restructuring negotiations with international lenders and bilateral creditors have shown gradual progress, though inflation and currency volatility remain areas of concern.

The severe drought that began in 2024 has persisted into 2025, significantly affecting agricultural output and hydropower generation. This has underscored the urgent need for investment in renewable energy, irrigation infrastructure, and climate-resilient farming systems—all areas where German expertise and technology are highly relevant.

Despite these challenges, Zambia's commitment to economic transformation and transparency continues to attract growing interest from international investors, including Germany. The country's abundant renewable energy potential, fertile agricultural land, and expanding mining sector have positioned it as a promising destination for trade and investment partnerships.

AHK Southern Africa, operating as the official representative of German industry in Zambia, strengthened its presence and outreach throughout 2025. The year marked the appointment of a new AHK Southern Africa Country Representative in Zambia, Mrs Cynthia Tebogo Ngoma. With her support, the Chamber continued to expand its network and facilitate opportunities for German businesses in the country's priority sectors—renewable energy, agriculture, mining and sustainable industrialisation.

One of this year's major highlights was the German Pavilion at the Agritech Expo Zambia 2025, held from 10 to 12 April 2025 in Chisamba. This event served as a platform for showcasing German innovation in agricultural mechanization, irrigation, and cold-chain technologies. The pavilion brought together 16 German companies, presenting advanced farming machinery, precision-agriculture tools, and sustainable energy solutions. The showcase attracted strong interest from Zambian agribusinesses, cooperatives, and government representatives, emphasising Germany's role as a trusted partner in modernising Zambia's agricultural infrastructure. Key themes during the exhibition included:

- Mechanisation and Smart Farming – Promotion of efficient, mid-sized machinery suitable for smallholder and commercial farmers.
- Sustainable Irrigation Systems – Introduction of solar-powered irrigation technology for drought resilience.
- Cold Chain and Post-Harvest Management – Presentation of energy-efficient cold storage and solar-powered refrigeration for reducing food loss.

The Chisamba event further reinforced the synergy between Germany's technology-driven agricultural expertise and Zambia's ambition to achieve food security and export diversification.

The Invest in Zambia International Conference (IZIC) 2025 – Lusaka (16–18 July 2025) — served as a high-level platform connecting global investors, government officials, and business leaders under the theme “Driving Generational Transformative Investments Through Joint Ventures and Partnerships.” Drawing over 500 participants, the event resulted in investment commitments worth approximately ZMW 46.6 billion (about USD 2 billion) across energy, agriculture, and mining sectors.



President Hakainde Hichilema reaffirmed Zambia’s commitment to institutional reform through the creation of a Presidential Delivery Unit aimed at improving investor services and addressing barriers in land, power, and logistics. The conference spotlighted renewable energy, agro-processing, and value-added mining as key growth areas, positioning Zambia as a regional investment hub. For German businesses, IZIC offered timely entry points into Zambia’s evolving investment landscape—especially in renewable energy, agricultural mechanisation, and critical-minerals technologies.

Shortly after, as part of the Chamber’s and embassy’s outreach efforts, Mrs Ngoma moderated the “Unpacking the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR)” workshop, which brought together government, private-sector, and development-partner stakeholders to explore how Zambia’s commodity and export sectors can prepare for the new regulation and build a national roadmap for compliance.

In addition, the SAGCC participated in the Zambia National ESG & Sustainability Summit, which was held 25–26 September 2025 in Lusaka. This event gathered thought-leaders, innovators, and changemakers to discuss environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, sustainable investment, and green-growth strategies in the Zambian



In mid-November 2025, Zambia, together with the EU, hosted the EU–Zambia Lobito Corridor Business Forum, which gathered government officials, investors, development banks, and civil society, including SAGCC Interim CEO Ms. Alexa Gerrard and Ms. Cynthia Ngoma from the Chamber, to explore business opportunities along the Lobito Corridor, a strategic trade route linking Zambia’s Copperbelt with the Atlantic port of Lobito in Angola. The event featured the signing of ten funding agreements totaling €200 million under the EU’s Global Gateway initiative, with key contributions including €20 million for a Nexus Energy-Water program and €36 million for supporting smallholder farmers, co-signed by German Ambassador to Zambia Mr. H.E. Sönke Siemon. The forum emphasized three priority tracks: critical raw materials, clean energy, and agriculture, focusing on expanding power infrastructure, developing agricultural value chains, and enhancing local processing capabilities for copper and manganese.



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Harare, Zimbabwe

Over the past year, Zimbabwe's political landscape has been marked by growing tensions within the ruling ZANU-PF and a high-profile campaign to extend President Emmerson Mnangagwa's tenure beyond the current constitutional term limit. At the party conference in October 2025, ZANU-PF adopted a resolution to pursue a constitutional amendment that would extend Mnangagwa's presidency by two years, to 2030 — a move that has drawn strong criticism from opposition parties and civil-society organizations.

On the economic front, the authorities have taken several steps to stabilise the macroeconomy, including limiting central bank financing, seeking to stabilise the exchange rate of the local currency (the ZIG), and reforming foreign-exchange allocation mechanisms. The IMF has commended these efforts but continues to highlight that Zimbabwe's large arrears to multilateral and bilateral creditors remain a major obstacle to accessing standard lending facilities. The country continues to engage with the IMF under a staff-monitored program while pursuing bridge financing and debt-resolution measures.

The business environment remains challenging, characterised by macroeconomic instability, high inflation, foreign-currency shortages, and policy uncertainty. The government has pledged to reduce the “cost of doing business” by cutting levies, fees, and charges — particularly in agriculture, tourism, and transport. It is also reviewing licensing and regulatory procedures, promising to digitise business applications and reduce bureaucratic hurdles. These initiatives, if effectively implemented, offer at least a glimmer of hope for an improved business climate.

A notable development during the year was the inaugural EU–Zimbabwe Business Forum, held in Harare under the Global Gateway banner (20–22 May 2025). The event brought together more than 300 EU and Zimbabwean business leaders, policymakers, and financiers to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) and value-chain development in sectors such as horticulture, agro-processing, renewable energy and mining. The Forum also marked the official launch and co-financing announcement of a Zimbabwe country window under EU-backed energy programs, showcasing EU de-risking instruments designed to attract private European investment. German participation was mainly through local agents and representatives from South African subsidiaries. The event was closely monitored by the German Embassy in Harare and the Southern African–German Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Although no immediate results are expected, the Forum represents a positive step toward deeper engagement and should ideally become a recurring platform.

As part of the Forum, GET.invest and GET.transform officially launched a Zimbabwe country window, co-funded by the EU and Germany, to accelerate clean-energy project finance, support local-currency lending and strengthen regulatory frameworks. The assignment of a designated country coordinator and on-the-ground representation underscores the immediate deployment of advisory and deal-catalysis capacity in Harare.

Despite some growth in recent years, bilateral trade between Germany and Zimbabwe remains modest. In 2024, Germany's imports from Zimbabwe totaled approximately US\$114 million, while Zimbabwe's imports from Germany reached around US\$72–73 million. German private direct investment in Zimbabwe also remains limited, with relatively low interest among potential new investors.

While Zimbabwe continues to face significant political and economic challenges, there are cautious signs of progress toward greater macroeconomic stability and renewed international engagement. The growing involvement of the EU and Germany — particularly through initiatives like the EU–Zimbabwe Business Forum and the GET.invest/GET.transform programs — signals a constructive pathway for enhanced cooperation and sustainable investment. For German businesses, Zimbabwe remains a complex but potentially promising market, provided reforms are sustained and transparency improved. Continued dialogue, capacity building, and policy consistency will be essential to unlock the country’s economic potential and strengthen bilateral relations in the years ahead.



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IHK Potsdam, Lukas Braun



Frankfurt, Germany

South Africa’s G20 Presidency has had a positive impact on the level of interest shown by German entrepreneurs in the markets of Southern Africa. Throughout the year, South Africa featured prominently in German television broadcasts as well as in national newspapers and business magazines, contributing to increased awareness of the country and the region as an investment destination.

As a result, the number of enquiries received by the representative in Frankfurt increased notably in 2025. A further driver of growing German business interest is the volatility of the global economic environment. In response, companies are reassessing their supply chains and actively seeking new markets and partnerships. Within the African context, South Africa continues to attract particular attention, given that it remains the continent’s most diversified economy and a key regional gateway.

Events Outlook

In support of this growing interest, the Frankfurt Representative participated in seven South Africa-focused business events across Germany in 2025, ranging geographically from Regensburg in the south to Hamburg in the north, and from Mönchengladbach in the west to Potsdam in the east. Through these engagements, Mr Walter Engelmann reached an audience of approximately 350 German entrepreneurs.

In addition to these events, a significant number of individual consultations were conducted with German small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) expressing interest in exploring business opportunities in Southern Africa.

For these one-to-one engagements, the “Beratungsgutscheine Afrika” programme of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy proved to be a valuable support instrument. These vouchers assist SMEs in entering new African markets and may be used, among other services, for address lists, business partner searches, market studies, and support in establishing subsidiaries on the African continent.

Trade figures for the first seven months of 2025 indicate that this increased interest is beginning to be reflected in tangible economic activity. These developments represent a promising and encouraging signal for a positive turnaround in German–South African trade relations in 2025.

In closing, Mr Walter Engelmann extends his sincere appreciation to the dedicated teams in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, as well as to the regional representatives in Harare, Lusaka, and Maputo, for their close, constructive, and efficient cooperation throughout the year.



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COMPETENCE CENTRE Industry and Trade Fairs

The Competence Centre Industry and Trade Fairs continues to serve as a strategic partner for businesses in Germany, providing market expert guidance, consultancy, and support to help them enter and thrive in the consumer goods and healthcare sectors within markets in Southern Africa. We have significantly assisted these businesses in navigating local markets, ensuring their successful establishment and long-term growth. Specifically tailored for businesses in manufacturing, engineering, industrial technologies, and related fields, this Competence Centre offers expertise and services to help these companies with market entry support and advice to successfully navigate local market conditions and expand their operations, as well as insights into local business practices and trends.

Industry

ADVANCING GERMAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY THROUGH BUSINESS DELEGATIONS

Textile Machinery Delegation 2025 (Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa)

From 24 to 28 March 2025, AHK Southern Africa successfully hosted a high-level delegation of seven leading German textile machinery companies, in partnership with the VDMA Textile Machinery Association and SBS Systems for Business Solutions GmbH.

The delegation represented globally recognised German engineering firms renowned for their advanced manufacturing technologies, precision components, and integrated systems that support all stages of the textile value chain, from spinning and weaving to finishing and quality assurance.

The programme commenced in Johannesburg with a Roundtable and Networking Session with key South African industry leaders and government stakeholders. The discussions offered valuable insights into the current state of South Africa’s textile industry, its challenges, and opportunities for growth, particularly in light of policy initiatives aimed at revitalising the sector.

A key highlight of the Johannesburg leg was the “Advancing South Africa’s Textile Industry” Conference, held on 25 March at the Radisson Blu Gautrain Hotel. Distinguished speakers from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) shared strategic plans to rebuild local production capacity, reduce import dependency, and stimulate industrialisation. The discussions also covered opportunities in small-scale manufacturing, skills development, and technical textiles; particularly those serving the automotive sector.

In Durban, the delegation participated in a second Roundtable and Networking Event focused on revitalising the region’s former textile corridor through infrastructure investment and regional collaboration. The well-attended conference at The Capital Pearls Hotel attracted representatives from business, academia, and government, highlighting shared interest in leveraging German innovation to strengthen South Africa’s local manufacturing base and supply chains.

The mission concluded with productive B2B engagements and site visits to leading industry players, including Beier Group, Brits Non-Woven (Durban), and Unica Textile Mills SA (Pty) Ltd. (Johannesburg). These visits provided delegates with first-hand insight into local production capabilities, workforce expertise, and areas where technological collaboration could enhance efficiency and competitiveness.

Overall, the delegation reaffirmed the strong potential for German–South African partnerships to drive innovation, promote industrial modernisation, and support the sustainable growth of South Africa’s textile and apparel manufacturing ecosystem.





ADVANCING GERMAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY THROUGH BUSINESS DELEGATIONS

Film & Media Delegation 2025 (Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa)

From 31 August to 5 September 2025, the Competence Centre Industry, supported by SBS Systems for Business Solutions GmbH, led a German business delegation to South Africa to explore opportunities within the country's dynamic film and media industry.

The programme, supported by Wesgro and the City of Cape Town, began with the opening ceremony of FAME Week Africa. Delegates attended Nollywood Night, celebrating Nigerian cinema through screenings, celebrity appearances, and cultural showcases.

Over the next two days, the delegation actively participated in FAME Week Africa, which unites major creative sectors — including film, television, animation, music, fashion, and entertainment technology. As part of MIP Africa, delegates engaged in B2B meetings with key stakeholders in film, TV, digital content distribution, and co-production across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The final day in Cape Town included the Netflix Producers Breakfast, where Netflix representatives shared their vision for African content and invited collaboration with local partners. Delegates then visited Eyeforce, an award-winning production company known for its global campaigns with brands such as Corona, Adidas, and New Balance, followed by a tour of Media24 TV Studios, home to productions for kykNET and Showmax. Lastly, at Filmscape, South Africa's first LED stage for virtual production and mixed reality, delegates observed a live automotive commercial shoot and a MasterChef studio setup.

With support from the Gauteng Film Commission, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd, and National Film and Video Foundation, the delegation took part in the South Africa–Germany Roundtable Discussion and Conference. Panel discussions addressed global market access for South African content, highlighting the country's creative talent and the importance of collaboration, innovation, and policy alignment. The German delegates also presented their services and technologies to local industry participants.

On the final day, the delegation visited Chocolate Tribe, a leading VFX and animation studio with collaborations including Disney, Netflix, and BBC One. The visit concluded at eMedia Holdings, home to e.tv, YFM, eVOD, and eNCA. Delegates were given a private tour of the company's new offices.

Overall, the mission highlighted South Africa's creative strengths, growing production capacity, and the significant potential for German-South African partnerships to foster innovation, content exchange, and industry growth within the broader African creative economy.



ANTI-GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN: AWARD CEREMONIES 2025

Absa Group Men's Forum Receives GBV Awareness and Prevention Certification

On 29 January 2025, AHK Southern Africa and Industry formally presented the Absa Group Men's Forum with a certificate in recognition of their successful completion of the Chamber's Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Awareness and Prevention Training Programme. The presentation took place at The Equinox, Absa CIB's headquarters in Johannesburg.

The programme, implemented in collaboration with the Agentur für Wirtschaft und Entwicklung, AHK Ecuador – Cámara Ecuatoriano Alemana, and Induction One, forms part of a broader initiative that has already empowered over 50 companies across South Africa, Namibia, and Zambia to take proactive action against GBV.

During the ceremony, the Chamber commended the Absa Men's Forum for its exemplary leadership and commitment to fostering a workplace culture grounded in respect, accountability, and support. Thabo Limema, Chairman of the Absa Men's Forum, highlighted the crucial role men must play in driving social change and ending GBV.

The Forum's success reflects strong collaboration among Absa's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB), Group Wellness, and Corporate Citizenship teams, aligning with the Group's broader Sustainability and ESG priorities.

This recognition underscores Absa Group’s dedication to promoting social responsibility and advancing gender equality — setting a leading example for corporate engagement in the fight against GBV.



ANTI-GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN: AWARD CEREMONIES 2025

BMW Group Financial Services South Africa Receives GBV Awareness and Prevention Certification

On 15 April 2025, the AHK Southern Africa was honoured to formally present BMW Group Financial Services South Africa with a certificate recognising their active participation in the Chamber’s Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Awareness and Prevention Training Programme.

BMW Group Financial Services South Africa has demonstrated exceptional commitment to understanding and addressing the systemic challenges of GBV — both within the workplace and in society at large. During the handover ceremony, Stefan Schuett, Chief Executive Officer, remarked:

“We’re proud to be part of a programme that challenges us to be better employers, colleagues, and citizens. Addressing GBV is everyone’s responsibility, and we’re honoured to walk this journey with partners who share the same values.”

The GBV Training Programme is a collaborative initiative between AHK Southern Africa, the Agentur für Wirtschaft und Entwicklung, AHK Ecuador – Cámara Ecuatoriano Alemana, and InductionOne. Together, these partners are fostering awareness, education, and accountability across industries and borders.

This milestone underscores AHK Southern Africa’s continued commitment to promoting responsible business practices and supporting member companies in building inclusive, safe, and socially conscious workplaces.





INDUSTRY CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION: SAGCC PARTICIPATES AS ASSOCIATION

Smart Manufacturing & Technology Summit 2025

AHK Southern Africa and Industry participated as an Association Partner at the Smart Manufacturing and Technology Summit, held from 2–13 May 2025 at The Houghton Hotel in Johannesburg. The summit convened manufacturers, technology leaders, and policymakers to explore how digital transformation is reshaping South Africa’s manufacturing landscape.

From Obligation to Opportunity: Reframing Carbon Neutrality

A key highlight was a fireside chat featuring Alexa Gerrard, Deputy CEO of Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, under the theme “From Obligation to Opportunity: Why Carbon Neutrality Makes Business Sense for South African Manufacturers.”

The discussion examined how evolving European environmental regulations — including Germany’s Federal Climate Change Action Act and the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) — are influencing global trade and competitiveness. These frameworks, which mandate steep emission reductions and impose tariffs on carbon-intensive imports, signal a major shift in market access dynamics.

Delegates were encouraged to view carbon neutrality not as a compliance burden, but as a strategic advantage. A compelling case study on Hylron, a Namibian green iron manufacturer powered by hydrogen, illustrated this opportunity. By aligning its processes with CBAM requirements, Hylron secured strong demand from German buyers, including a major offtake agreement with Benteler Automotive for up to 200,000 tonnes of direct reduced iron (DRI) annually — demonstrating how sustainability can drive growth and market relevance.

Expertly moderated by Sherrie Donaldson, Lead: Emerging Opportunities at Harambee, the session added valuable perspective to the broader dialogue on sustainable industrial transformation.

Advancing Sustainable and Smart Manufacturing

The summit also explored emerging technologies shaping the future of manufacturing — from Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Digital Twins, Predictive Analytics, Hyper Automation, Industrial IoT, and Cybersecurity. Discussions underscored Africa’s potential to position itself as a globally competitive manufacturing hub, leveraging innovation and sustainability to achieve inclusive industrialisation aligned with national development goals.

Looking Ahead

AHK Southern Africa’s participation reinforced its commitment to promoting innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness as key drivers of industrial progress. The Chamber looks forward to deepening collaboration with partners across sectors to unlock South Africa’s potential as a leader in smart, inclusive, and sustainable manufacturing.



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Trade Fairs

The AHK Southern Africa Trade Fairs Department is the official representative for Trade Fairs organised by contracted partners, **Messe Dusseldorf & Koelnmesse** (in South Africa), **Messe Berlin** and **Messe Muenchen** in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The Trade Fair Department coordinates the participation of companies from the SADC on behalf of the German trade fair organizers. We give a step-by-step advice and guidance for both exhibitors and visitors to a successful trade fair participation.

2025 Trade Fair Highlights

ProWein 2025

ProWein 2025, 16 to 18 March, sent out a clear signal for innovation, vision and future-proofness in challenging times for the worldwide wine and spirits sector characterised by internationally declining sales and looming trade barriers. The fair succeeded in highlighting prospects, providing impetus, setting trends and facilitating numerous successful business deals. **The next ProWein trade fair will take place from 15 to 17 March 2026.**



Platform for global networking

A total of around 4,200 exhibitors from 65 nations presented their wines and spirits in eleven exhibition halls. All relevant wine regions were represented with their major market leaders. Despite the tense market situation, the quality of the event remained at an extremely high level.

Wines of South Africa (WoSA) had a significant presence at ProWein 2025, featuring a pavilion with over 60 producers and themed tasting areas that highlighted regional diversity. The WoSA pavilion included a “Discover Tasting Pods” area, where visitors could sample wines from various regions and specific varietals like Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon or Durbanville Sauvignon Blanc.

bauma 2025

The world's leading trade fair for construction machinery, building material machines, mining machines, construction vehicles and construction equipment was held from April 7 to 13 at the Munich exhibition center.

With around 600,000 visitors from more than 200 countries and 3,601 exhibitors

from 57 nations, bauma 2025 proved to be a stable foundation and forward-looking platform in turbulent times. Stefan Rummel, CEO of Messe München, was delighted: "bauma is the heartbeat of the industry and has once again shown how crucial exchange and personal encounters are for progress and global trade." **The next bauma will be held from April 3–9, 2028, at the Munich trade fair.**



Anuga 2025

The leading global trade fair Anuga broke all previous records with its 2025 edition: Over 8,000 exhibitors from 110 countries exhibited in Cologne from 4 to 8 October – more than ever before. More than 145,000 trade visitors from over 190 nations took advantage of the opportunity to discover innovations, experience trends and establish international business contacts. The trade audience was especially strongly represented from Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. Outside Europe, Brazil, China, Japan,

Canada and the USA were among the top nations. With a 94 percent share of foreign exhibitors and 80 percent share of visitors from abroad and with its ten trade shows, Anuga impressively reinforced their position as the undisputed global platform for the F&B industry.



South African companies showcased their products at Anuga 2025, and their participation was enabled by the support provided by Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC). This was part of the department's market diversification initiatives aimed at assisting local manufacturers establish markets in various parts of the world to stimulate export-led industrialisation. **The next Anuga will take place from 9 to 13 October 2027.**

K 2025

K 2025, the most relevant trade fair for the plastics and rubber industry worldwide, drew to a successful close on 15 October 2025 after 8 days. In view of the current difficult economic climate, many companies in the plastics and rubber industry travelled to Düsseldorf with rather subdued expectations. But the mood prevailing across the fully occupied exhibition grounds

proved outstanding on all trade fair days. The plastics and rubber industry presented itself as more innovative, international and determined than ever to actively shape the transition to more sustainability, digitalisation and social responsibility.

Under the strapline “The Power of Plastics! Green – Smart – Responsible” 3,275 exhibitors from 66 nations presented forward-looking



technologies, products and processes along their entire value chain across 18 exhibition halls and outdoor areas. Over 175,000 trade visitors from around 160 countries travelled to Düsseldorf meaning that K attendance remained stable.

The next K will be held in Düsseldorf from 18 to 25 October 2028.

For more information, impressions and statements go to www.k-online.com

Main Trade Fairs to look out for in 2026



03-06 March
2026



13-17 April 2026



22-25
September
2026, Berlin



27-30
October 2026



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COMPETENCE CENTRE (CC:MMR) Mining and Mineral Resources

Continues to serve as a vital link between the German and Southern African mining sectors, strengthening trade relations and fostering sustainable partnerships. In line with Germany's Raw Materials Strategy, CC: MMR has notably expanded Germany's market presence within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), while also promoting regional economic growth and innovation in the mining industry. As SADC countries develop their mining sectors, they present numerous opportunities for German companies to invest in sustainable practices and state-of-the-art technologies. The importance of on-the-ground engagement cannot be overstated, as these visits encourage direct interactions with local stakeholders, offer valuable insights into regional developments, and reinforce partnerships critical for long-term success.

PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR TRADE FAIRS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Investing in African Mining Indaba (Cape Town, South Africa)

CC: MMR’s participation at the Mining Indaba in February reflected the event’s theme, “Future-Proofing African Mining, Today!” Once again, Germany demonstrated its strong presence and involvement in the mining sector with 21 companies under the German Pavilion.



As the central contact for mining in Southern Africa, CC: MMR, with the German Mineral Resources Agency (DERA), held another successful German Day 2025 alongside the Mining Indaba, the biggest one to date, with 200 participants. With the theme “Critical Minerals Value Chains: Southern Africa’s Role in the Global Energy Transition”, the event focused on Africa’s strategic role in the global energy transition. It featured a panel discussion of industry leaders sharing perspectives on investment, innovation, and policy challenges, and emerging trends and strategies for strengthening Southern Africa’s position in global mineral value chains. The opening remarks were delivered by the Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy to South Africa, Mr Enrico Brandt, who lent valuable governmental insights, highlighting Germany’s commitment to mining collaboration with the SADC region.



The organisers of German Day - AHK Southern Africa and DERA with AHK Ghana.



Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy to South Africa, Mr Enrico Brandt delivered the opening remarks.



Henrik Hartmann from the South African-German Energy Partnership, moderated the expert panel session.



An expert panel discussion featuring industry leaders from Siemens, Traxys, Africa Finance Corporation, KfW IPEX, and Manganese Metal Company.



Keynotes delivered by Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG)



Stakeholders engaging during the networking session.

DRC Mining Week (Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo)

CC: MMR participated in the 20th edition of DRC Mining Week, exhibited under the EU Pavilion in June. This year, there was a strong German representation with 13 German companies and their local partners, underscoring Germany’s commitment to fostering long-term partnerships and contributing to the region’s economic growth through responsible mining practices. Trust Merchant Bank (TMB), in collaboration with the German Embassy in Kinshasa and CC: MMR, hosted a networking reception event. This gathering brought together German companies and local stakeholders, fostering dialogue, building relationships, and paving the way for future joint ventures.



AHK Southern Africa Information Stand under the EU Pavilion.



The Deputy Head of Mission, Dr Pascal Richter (German Embassy in Kinshasa), and Ms Bernadette Kalz (BMZ), visiting German companies at the DRC Mining Week.



Member companies engaging with key stakeholders in the DRC.



Head of CC: MMR, Selleen Sewpershad delivering opening remarks at the networking reception event with the Deputy Head of Mission, Dr Pascal Richter.



A networking reception event with German companies and local stakeholders.



CC: MMR attending the EU Business Forum Networking Lunch.

PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR TRADE FAIRS AND EVENTS IN GERMANY

Bauma (Munich, Germany) - With around 600,000 visitors from more than 200 countries and 3,601 exhibitors from 57 nations, bauma continues to provide a global platform to access cutting-edge mining technologies, sustainable solutions and a space for knowledge-sharing on emerging trends. CC: MMR attended bauma in April and had the opportunity to visit the booths of member companies and engage with new stakeholders interested in the SADC mining sector.



VDMA Mining & Minerals



BAUER City



Bosch Rexroth

International Raw Materials Dialogue (Berlin, Germany)

In November, the [German Mining & Resources Network](#) gathered in Berlin for the first annual strategy workshop. The event was organised by the DIHK and included the German Mineral Resources Agency, Germany Trade and Invest and German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK) from Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Canada, Ghana, South Africa, Mongolia, China, and Australia. This was followed by an International Raw Materials Dialogue with participants from business, politics and science.



To view the German Mining and Resource Network scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)



VDMA Mining Industry Meeting and Africa Steering Committee Meeting (Essen, Germany)

From 20 – 21 November, members and guests gathered in Essen to attend the VDMA Industry Meeting to unpack the economic outlook and discuss how Europe can strengthen its resilience and self-sufficiency. The German Mining and Resources Network was strongly represented by German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK) from South Africa, Ghana, Chile, Peru and Canada where mining continues to be an important sector. At the VDMA Mining Africa SteerCo, the CC: MMR presented industry updates for Southern Africa and outlook for 2026.

The meetings were joined by distinguished diplomats from the **DRC - H.E. Louise Nzanga Ramazani, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Zambia - Mweemba H. Hamanyati, First Secretary – Economic, Embassy of the Republic of Zambia**.



DRIVING THE TOPIC OF CRITICAL MINERALS

Southern Africa stands at a pivotal moment, with vast critical mineral reserves offering a pathway to economic transformation and a sustainable, green future. To realise this potential, SADC countries must adopt strategic approaches to resource management. CC: MMR continues to lead efforts to position the region as a key partner in the global critical minerals landscape.



BDI Industry Day (Berlin, Germany) – In June, CC: MMR, represented by Selleen Sewpershad, participated in an expert panel co-hosted by **Agentur für Wirtschaft und Entwicklung (AWE)** and **Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI)** at the TDI 2025 in Berlin, Germany. The panel explored how Africa’s mineral wealth can support Europe’s resource security while catalysing transformation within the continent itself. The topic was “Critical partnerships for Critical Minerals: How Africa’s Resources can reduce Europe’s Dependencies and Drive its own Transformation”, and was moderated by Kristian Lempa, Director, Division for Global Policy, Governance and Cities at GIZ.

MINING DELEGATIONS TO ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA

In 2025, CC:MMR strengthened regional cooperation and supported German industry through two mining-focused business delegations to Zambia and Angola, organised under the Market Entry Programme (MEP) in partnership with Afrika-Verein, VDMA Mining & Minerals, and local AHK offices.

Zambia (Lusaka & Kitwe) – 19–23 May 2025

A delegation of 11 German companies explored opportunities across Zambia’s expanding mining sector. Over five days, participants received in-depth market insights and connected with potential customers, partners, and project holders.

The programme centred on the German–Zambian Mining Symposium, which gathered more than 80 attendees, including representatives from the Ministry of Mines, Zambia Chamber of Mines, Zambia Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and DEG Impulse.

Site visits to Mopani Copper Mine and Konkola Copper Mine offered first-hand exposure to large-scale operations and created platforms for German firms to introduce their technologies directly to industry stakeholders.



The briefing event for the delegation in Lusaka.



A networking reception hosted by the Ambassador of the German Embassy to Zambia, H.E. Anne Wagner-Mitchell. Opening delivered by Dr Hapenga Kabeta, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development at the networking reception.



Group photo of the delegation with local experts at the German-Zambian Mining Symposium.



The delegation and attendees at German-Zambian Mining Symposium.



Mine visit to the Konkola Copper mine in Chililabombwe, Zambia.



Mine visit to the Mopani Copper mine in Mufulira, Zambia.

Angola (Luanda & Saurimo) – 18–22 August 2025

A second delegation, consisting of 9 German companies, focused on Angola’s growing mining investment landscape. Participants engaged with key institutions, gained sector insight, and explored partnership opportunities.

The week’s highlight was the German–Angolan Mining Event, attended by around 60 participants, featuring contributions from the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas (MIREMPET) and the National Agency for Mineral Resources (ANRM).

The programme also included visits to the Saurimo Diamond Development Hub and Luele Diamond Mine, showcasing Angola’s advanced operations and enabling German companies to present their solutions to local stakeholders.



The briefing event for the delegation in Luanda, Angola.



Site visit at Instituto Geológico de Angola (IGEO).



A networking reception hosted by H.E. Dr Stefan Traumann, Ambassador of the German Embassy in Luanda.



Group photo of the delegation with local experts at the German-Angolan Mining Event.



AHK Southern Africa, AHK Angola, Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft and VDMA Mining and Minerals



Individual B2B meetings after the German-Angolan Mining event



Site visit at Saurimo Diamond Development Hub



Site visit at Saurimo Diamond Development Hub



Mine visit at Luele Diamond Mine

EU Africamaval Project Comes to a Close in Tanzania

The AfricaMaVal initiative is paving the way for sustainable mineral sourcing practices in Africa, fostering collaboration between Europe and Africa, and promoting responsible development that aligns with global ESG standards.

The consortium partners, alongside advisory board members and stakeholders, convened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 18 to 20 June 2025 for the final AfricaMaVal Consortium Meeting. The CC: MMR was responsible for compiling Country Profiles on the National Regulatory Framework and Good Governance Evaluation for 54 countries in Africa as part of Work Package 7 – Responsible Investment Opportunities. This comprehensive study maps and assesses responsible investment opportunities in Extended Critical Raw Materials (ECRM) value chains. The report was published in August 2024 and is available on the AfricaMaVal project website.

In this transformative year, the CC: MMR’s initiatives have strengthened Germany-SADC mining collaboration and highlighted a future where democracy, innovation, and sustainable growth drive regional and international prosperity. The outlook for German-Southern African business, especially in the mining sector, remains optimistic.

To view the EU Africamaval Project scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)





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Next chapter

WORKING GROUP MINING



Supporting Transformation and Collaboration in the SADC Mining Sector

The Competence Centre for Mining & Mineral Resources (CC: MMR) acts as the facilitator of the mining working group, which involves relevant stakeholders from the mining industry. This working group aims to connect AHK Southern Africa member companies, mining industry organisations, universities, and government officials to ensure that key decision-makers and industries are aligned in establishing a sustainable mining industry on a single central platform.

The working group mining committee collectively aims to create market transparency, foster collaboration and communication, and support German mining technology in Southern Africa. The four subcommittees meet regularly to discuss key topics and report on progress and industry developments - 4IR, Legal and Compliance, Raw Materials & Mineral Processing, and Skills Development and R&D.

Update: Main Committee Meetings

The main committee meetings are aimed at planning future working group activities based on the feedback of each subcommittee and discussing industry developments, and were held on the following dates:

- 11 March 2025 (Q1)
- 5 August 2025 (Q3)
- 5 December 2025 (Q4)



Newly appointed Heads of the Subcommittees – From left to right, Thululela Pupuma (Working Group Secretariat), Methembeni Moyo (Legal and Compliance), Volker Knoth (Raw Materials), Leigh McMaster (Former Chairperson), Selleen Sewpershad (Working Group Secretariat), Ettiene Pretorius (Skills Development) and Nivasha Singh (4IR)



Newly appointed Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson – From left to right, Methembeni Moyo (Legal and Compliance), Selleen Sewpershad (Working Group Secretariat), Nivasha Singh (4IR), André Lourens (Chairperson), Lindy Mkhize (Deputy Chairperson), Volker Knoth (Raw Materials), and Thululela Pupuma (Working Group Secretariat)



Last Main Committee Meeting for 2025 - From left to right, Gavin Frayne (COO), Nivasha Singh (4IR), Marisa Lourenço (Guest Speaker), Lindy Mkhize (Deputy Chairperson), Selleen Sewpershad (Working Group Secretariat), Thululela Pupuma (Working Group Secretariat) Nomthandazo Hlatshwayo (Schauenburg) and André Lourens (Chairperson)

Update - Subcommittee Meetings



The **4IR Subcommittee** meeting took place online on 29 April 2025 on the topic of **Leveraging 4IR Technologies and H2 Vehicles for Sustainable Operations to Future-Proof the Mining Sector.**

The meeting was chaired by Ms Nivasha Singh (Siemens Energy) and featured:

- Mr Vinay Somera (Isondo Precious Metals) - **Overview of Isondo Precious Metals (Pty) Ltd**



The **Skills Development and R&D Subcommittee** meeting took place online on 29 July 2025 on the topic of **Shaping Mining Skills Through Strategic Partnerships.**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Ettiene Pretorius (Schauenburg Systems) and included presentations from:

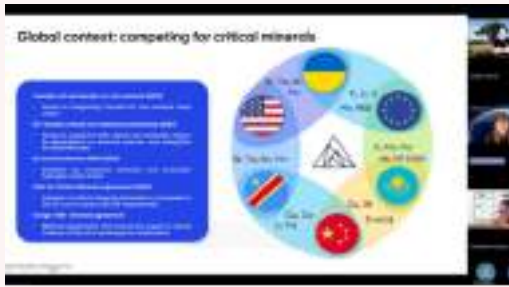
- Nischen Munnisunker (Regenesys Business School) - **Catalysing Skills Development through Partnerships – Lessons from the Nordic Triple Helix Model**
- Prof. Glen Nwaila (CORES and Wits) - **Are Sandboxes the Missing Link in Smart Mining Innovation?**
- Ettiene Pretorius (Schauenburg Systems) - **Bringing Together Innovation, Skills and Impact – Setting the Stage for Strategic Growth**



The **Legal and Compliance Subcommittee** meeting took place online on 16 September 2025 on the topic of **Key Developments in the Privatisation of South Africa's Rail Industry.**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Methembeni Moyo (NSDV Law Inc) and included presentations from:

- Tamia Martin (NSDV Law Inc) - **Unpacking the Regulatory and Legal Journey towards Rail Privatisation in South Africa**
- Busi Baitsile (Motheo Africa Logistics) - **Privatisation of South Africa's Freight Rail and What it Means for the Mining Value Chain**
- Nomonde Xulu (Anura Partners) - **From Policy to Participation: Unlocking Rail Investment through Corridor-Based Private Sector Models**



The **Raw Materials and Mineral Processing Subcommittee** meeting took place on 14 October 2025 on the topic of *Ore to More: Adding Value Before Export*.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Volker Knoth (AZ-Armatoren SA) and included presentations from:

- Tanisha Schultz (Project Blue) - *The Value Dilemma: Can Export Taxes Drive Beneficiation in South Africa?*
- Vaughn Duke (Sound Mining & SAIMM) - *China's Influence on Downstream Beneficiation*

Activities Outlook

The Working Group Mining will continue to prioritise transparent communication, market development, and active German-SADC cooperation. For details on upcoming Working Group meetings in 2026, please visit our website.

Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)



Let's Stay in Touch

The CC: MMR team would like to extend their appreciation to all members and stakeholders for their engagement, support and cooperation. We prioritise upholding long-term business relationships and welcome new partnerships.

If you are interested in becoming a member or guest presenter, please reach out to the Working Group Secretariats Ms Selleen Sewpershad and Ms Thululela Pupuma.



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COMPETENCE CENTRE **Sourcing**

Connecting African Suppliers with German Buyers.

The year 2025 marked a phase of consolidation and strategic growth for AHK Southern Africa's Competence Centre Sourcing. Building on the momentum of previous years, the programme continued to strengthen trade linkages between Southern African suppliers and German and EU buyers, while expanding collaboration within Germany's development cooperation ecosystem.

A key institutional milestone was the continuation and successful expansion of the partnership with the **Agency for Business & Development (AWE)**, which co-funds the Head of Competence Centre Sourcing position. Since **April 2025**, **Bernhard Rohkemper** has assumed this role, ensuring strategic continuity and deepening synergies between AHK Southern Africa, AWE, and the **Partners in Transformation** network. This collaboration facilitates direct access for AHK Southern Africa members to support mechanisms such as **develoPPP**, the **Import Promotion Desk (IPD)**, and other instruments of German development cooperation.

Throughout the year, the Competence Centre supported over **50 SMEs** from across South Africa and **Southern Africa** in establishing and strengthening their export linkages. These firms were connected to potential buyers and business partners in Germany and the wider EU. In parallel, AHK Southern Africa continued to assist German companies in identifying reliable sourcing partners and suppliers within the region, offering tailored partner searches and matchmaking services aligned with sustainability and quality standards.

A particular highlight of 2025 was the **ESG Supply Chain Gathering** workshop series, hosted in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Lusaka, and Windhoek, which brought together more than **190 participants** from industry, government, development cooperation, and trade promotion institutions. The series provided a practical platform to discuss due diligence requirements, ESG compliance, and supplier readiness, reflecting AHK South Africa's commitment to building resilient and responsible value chains.



Regionally, the Competence Centre has deepened collaboration with strategic partners such as **Wesgro**, the **Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA)**, the **Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)**, and the **Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM)**. These partnerships reinforce AHK South Africa regional footprint and ensure that sourcing facilitation is embedded within local trade ecosystems, strengthening the positioning of Southern Africa as a trusted sourcing region for European markets.



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COMPETENCE CENTRE

Education, Training and CSR

The training and skills development environment shifted significantly between 2024 and 2025, highlighting key changes, emerging trends and new challenges. New developments have impacted the activities of the Competence Centre and training partners. These include a shift from Unit Standard-based or purely academic credentials to more work-oriented, vocational, and occupational qualifications. As a result, there has been a pressing need to revise the local qualifications that were already aligned with or embedded in our German dual vocational training programmes and qualifications.

Ongoing efforts are focused on closing three legacy training programmes and developing new approaches, including short, targeted interventions that are more cost-effective and time-efficient for businesses, while still achieving the goal of building a talent pipeline. We have also realised that these changes require time and steady work to ensure that we introduce sustainable projects. This view will therefore inform the activities planned for 2026.

In partnership with Mercedes-Benz South Africa, we completed high-impact CSR initiatives in and outside Gauteng. We facilitated two sessions of the AdA (Ausbildung der Ausbilder) International Vocational Trainer course.

In line with our strategy to broaden our service offering, we have designed and introduced the C-Accreditation for local courses and training programmes. The C-Accreditation is a method for recognising and endorsing the dual vocational training activities outside Germany and is administered by business chambers (i.e., AHKs).

Dual Vocational Training

The competence centre had 45 trainees enrolled in the Freight Forwarding and Logistics, Office Administration (CATS), Chemical Operations and Mechatronics Technician Apprenticeship Programmes. An additional 49 trainees were enrolled in the Blind SA special project and completed training in June 2025. The Freight Forwarding and Logistics Programme closed in May 2025, with the last cohort successfully completing their three-year training.



A group of 17 trainees in the CATS Programme concluded their oral assessments with a panel of industry experts and are scheduled to graduate in May or June 2026. The CATS Programme will be phased out by November 2026. Work is already underway to redesign a replacement programme that aligns the German Industriekaufmann/-kauffrau qualification with another local occupational qualification to meet the skills and talent needs of business partners.

Chemical Operations Programme

The Durban Chemical Operations Programme started in April 2025, and became a successful pilot initiative for project sponsors, host companies and trainees. This is the first 12-month programme offered under the local C-Category, whereas categories A and B are much more aligned with the German framework and last longer than 2 years. Known as Project Asambe, it was developed in partnership with the Durban Chemicals Cluster and Scientec Education and Training, with funding from The Chemical Industries Education & Training Sector Authority (CHIETA). The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of the State of Baden-Württemberg also funds other training activities of the Competence Centre.

The success of the project is attributable to a relentless effort in sourcing candidates who met the criteria, a stringent screening process, involvement of executives from host companies in the interview process to connect with candidates from the outset and working alongside colleagues from BM Analysts (BMA) who have been coordinating project activities on behalf of the Durban Chemicals Cluster.



Junior Business Administrator (JBA)

The JBA Programme is a 12-month learnership scheduled to run from April 2026 to May 2027 and designed as a high-impact, once-off national intervention to empower young South Africans with future-ready workplace competencies. Accredited at NQF Level 4 by the Services SETA, the programme is delivered in the German dual training model, giving partnering organisations access to attractive B-BBEE benefits and related tax incentives.

The 12-month programme lays a strong foundation. The JBA Programme is a 12-month learner-ship scheduled to run from April 2026 to May 2027 and designed as a high-impact, once-off national intervention to empower young South Africans with future-ready workplace competencies.

AdA International Vocational Trainer Course – Basic Version

We successfully completed two training sessions in June and August 2025. Delegates who attended these sessions represented South African Breweries (SAB), VEGA Controls (Pty) Ltd, Festo (Pty) Ltd, Giesecke & Devrient Current Technology South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Tshwane North TVET College (TNC), as well as the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAGCC).



The diverse participation demonstrates that the course is highly sought after and reflects the Chamber’s commitment to employee development and growth through effective in-company training.

Lecturers from TNC emphasised the importance of understanding the roles and activities of in-company trainers and mentors, especially as TVET Colleges shift towards occupational qualifications and as the need to strengthen partnerships with the private sector grows. There are additional benefits for TVET Colleges in understanding companies’ expectations when preparing interns and graduates for the workplace. These include assuming the role of company mentors, guiding students to help them succeed when they join companies for their workplace component of training.

C-Accreditation of Training Course and Programmes

With a focus on new, value-added services for members and partners, we designed a framework for accreditation of local training interventions. Training providers who offer occupational and vocational training courses aligned with the German dual vocational training approach, which clearly integrates theory, practice, and/or workplace experience, are eligible to apply for a Category C endorsement, which AHK Southern Africa will issue after careful assessment of the course design and delivery.

Categories A and B are programmes and qualifications offered only by AHK Southern Africa, are aligned with the German approach, and can be certified in Germany. Category C enables us to deliver effective dual training models and interventions in the local context and achieve high-quality training that benefits employers and training providers.



Trainme 3 Project

The TVET lecturer training project in Mechatronics, Energy and Water Management, and Renewable Energies was launched in October 2025. Key stakeholders are the Department of Higher Education; Überbetriebliches Bildungszentrum in Ostbayern gemeinnützige GmbH (ÜBZO), an Inter-Company Training Centre in Eastern Bavaria and a non-profit vocational education provider; and the University of Stuttgart, with its Department of Vocational Education, focused on Teaching Technology (BPT). The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space.

Training for TVET lecturers will focus on didactics and pedagogy, including practical industry-related content. In the same cohort of lecturers participating in the 2026 project, master trainers will be selected to attend a train-the-trainer session to expand their knowledge and skills to other TVET colleges. Trainme 1 was completed in 2021 and covered basic training in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Trainme 2 was conducted between 2021 and 2025, with advanced training in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

bbw Mechatronics Lecturer Development Project - Phase 2

In the past 3 years (2022-2025), bbw, in partnership with Tshwane North TVET College (TNC) Rosslyn and Ekurhuleni West TVET College (EWC) Germiston, has successfully upskilled 13 TVET lecturers in the fields of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Mechatronics (Automation & Robotics) on a project fully funded by the German Federal Ministry.

The main objective was to have at least 1 of the 2 TVET colleges ready and accredited to offer the Mechatronics Technician qualification before 30 November 2025, when the project ends. During the project term, the team achieved this primary objective: Ekurhuleni West TVET College in Germiston implemented its apprenticeship programme on 1 September 2025, along with other key objectives.

Some of these different objectives and achievements include:

- Taking the lecturers through technical training (in Mechatronics) and soft skills training with accredited South African & German training providers.
- Equipping college workshops, notably the TNC Rosslyn College.
- Developing learning & teaching material for the Mechatronics Technician Qualification.
- Successfully hosting six quality circles, bringing together industry and colleges regularly to sustain the collaboration.
- Successfully placing lecturers in industry for work exposure.



Corporate Social Responsibility

Since 2015, Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA) has contributed to the Chamber's CSR goals and activities, impacting thousands of beneficiaries. In recent years, a decision was made to supply food items only during crises, to prioritise support for learning and teaching activities in schools, and/or to make donations that inspire commitment to education and lifelong learning across various communities. As part of this mission, the following activities impacted over 3,200 learners and teachers across multiple schools.

- The donation of 300 desks, 300 chairs, and projectors, along with the installation of two sirens at Hulwazi Secondary School (Benoni, Johannesburg), benefited over 2000 children and 95 teachers.
- Donation of wheelchairs, desks, school shoes, and other items to Resomaretse Special School (Zeerust, Northwest Province). Two pupils received wheelchairs, and 113 learners, along with 30 staff members, benefited from the donation of shoes, desks, and chairs.
- Donation of desks, chairs, and whiteboards to Banabakae Primary School (Zeerust, North-west Province). The donation benefited 698 pupils and 21 teachers.
- Donation of school shoes, socks and sanitary pads to a vulnerable group of 30 learners at Protea Glen Secondary School in Soweto. This initiative was carried out in partnership with the Winny Radebe Foundation, reflecting our ongoing commitment to ensuring that pupils feel confident, supported, and comfortable within the school environment.
- Donation of sanitary pads and a sickbay bed to Nonkonyana Primary School (Flagstaff, Eastern Cape).
- A sponsorship of the year-end celebration to Kliptown Youth Program (KYP), in Kliptown, Soweto, which hosted over 310 community children.
- Donation of the soccer kit and training items to the Freedom Charter Foundation, in Klip-town, Soweto.



Appreciation of partners in creating sustainable careers over the past decades

Over 40 years of dual training programmes, it is critical to appreciate the business partners who have enabled the shared vision of creating sustainable careers for youth. As we navigate current changes and aim to design and implement new training interventions, we hope that most of our partners will work alongside us over the coming years. The worsening rate of youth unemployment, now more than ever, requires that we enrol more young people into various training programmes. When this challenge is coupled with the ever-changing business environment, we are also compelled to co-design programmes that will address immediate skills gaps and create a future talent pipeline for our partners.

The Competence Centre sincerely thanks and appreciates the support and dedication to training from the following partners.



C. Steinweg Logistics



MAERSK



ZACPAK

FLENDER



SIEMENS

Outlook for 2026

We are closing the year with plans to focus on designing dual vocational training interventions in response to the changing environment and programmes that will become sustainable. Closing a few programmes completely in 2025 will create capacity to focus on new ideas, and this work is already underway.

There is a clear strategy in developing new services while building on the 2025 successes in other regions, including the Durban Chemicals Operations Programme. This project will undoubtedly become one of the successful pilot projects, creating much-needed interest and training programmes outside Gauteng.



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COMPETENCE CENTRE Climate and Environment

The Competence Centre: Climate and Environment (CC:CE) supports businesses from Germany and Southern Africa that seek to participate in the dynamic regional markets for sustainable energy, water, and waste management. The CC:CE provides market information, supports companies in market entry and expansion, carries out activities aimed at market development, and serves as a platform for sector representation and cooperation. Working closely with both the private and public sectors, the CC:CE contributes to advancing the transition towards a greener and more resource-efficient economy. The Centre encompasses three portfolios – sustainable energy, water, and circular economy – which activities are aligned to offer comprehensive support in the fields of climate and environment to members and the broader private sector.

Sustainable Energy Portfolio

In addition to providing market insights and guidance to businesses on opportunities in South Africa's liberalising electricity market, the CC:CE supported three German–South African green hydrogen projects in securing co-financing from H2Uppp for their development phase. The co-financing, structured through a public-private partnership model, will enable these projects to advance and de-risk their business models, attract further investment, and ultimately move into implementation.

In cooperation with the German–South African Energy Partnership, the CC:CE hosted a Business- to-Government event during Enlit Africa 2025 on Private Sector Participation in South Africa's Transmission Development Plan. The session enabled companies to engage directly with policymakers on new procurement and funding models, upcoming Independent Transmission Projects (ITPs), and the evolving PPP and investment environment. The exchange highlighted the vital role of private sector participation in addressing South Africa's transmission infrastructure challenges.

At the African Green Hydrogen Summit 2025 in Cape Town, the AHK convened a trilateral business-to-government dialogue between Namibia, South Africa, and Germany. Representatives from industry, government, and the European Commission discussed how to align infrastructure and investment approaches and design off-take mechanisms for future hydrogen markets. The dialogue reflected the growing momentum among African and European stakeholders to accelerate the development of an integrated and sustainable hydrogen economy.



Trilateral B2G Dialogue at the African Green Hydrogen Summit 2025 in Cape Town

These examples illustrate how the CC:CE facilitates the engagement of businesses in shaping the debate on the future of the energy landscape, while helping to maximise private sector opportunities in the transition.

Water Portfolio

From 4 to 9 May 2025, we hosted seven companies from the German state of Baden-Württemberg in Johannesburg and Durban, South Africa, to explore cooperation opportunities in the water and wastewater management sector. Organised by Baden-Württemberg International and supported by the state's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism, the trip provided a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and identifying sustainable business prospects.

For more information on the delegation, please refer to the report on the activities of the Baden-Württemberg Representation and our website using the QR Code.

Scan or Click the QR Code Below:



Furthermore, the IFAT Africa in July 2025 offered the perfect opportunity for a diverse delegation from Bavaria to explore business and research opportunities on the topic of water management in South Africa.

The delegation visited Johannesburg and Cape Town and connected with relevant stakeholders representing local business, research institutions, government and political leaders through round tables, evening receptions and business coffees.

In preparation for the delegation, we held four webinars highlighting market opportunities and the state of water management in the industrial and mining sector as well as the public water and wastewater infrastructure.

For more information on the webinars and the delegation, please refer to the report on the activities of the Bavarian Representation in South Africa and watch the webinars on demand using the QR Code.

Scan or Click the QR Code below:



Both visits underscored the shared commitment of South African and German partners to address pressing water challenges through innovation, collaboration, and sustainable business models.

Training week for water managers from the Eastern Cape in Brake, Germany

From 13 to 17 October 2025, thirteen water sector professionals and managers from South Africa's Eastern Cape province took part in an intensive training week developed and hosted by the Oldenburgisch-Ostfriesischer Wasserverband (OOWV) in Brake and the surrounding Wesermarsch region. The programme offered a wide range of insights—from motivating staff and groundwater protection to stakeholder engagement and innovative water reuse initiatives.

A particular highlight was the visit to the construction site of a new industrial water reuse facility in Brake, being developed by De.Encon for the OOWV. Participants were especially interested in how treated municipal wastewater will soon be reused by local industries. The week combined classic leadership training with practical exposure to OOWV's waterworks, wastewater plants, and environmental education sites such as Biohof Bakenhus and the German Association of Local Utilities (VKU) contributed further perspectives on water resource management and data science.

The training formed part of the official partnership between Lower Saxony and the Eastern Cape and was funded by the Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony. The participation of the public water sector from the Eastern Cape was coordinated jointly by the AHK Southern Africa and South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in South Africa.



South African experts gather ideas for advanced wastewater treatment at the OOWV, 13-17 October 2025. (Photocred: OOWV)

Water Efficiency for Commercial and Industrial Southern Africa (WECISA)

As water scarcity and wastewater discharge costs continue to rise across Southern Africa, businesses in the industrial and commercial sectors face increasing pressure to optimise water usage. Many regions also experience unreliable water supply, making the need for water efficiency even more urgent.

In 2025, the WECISA project achieved significant progress in advancing sustainable water use practices among selected private sector actors across South Africa and Zambia. Collaboration with German technology providers has been a cornerstone of the initiative. During the project kick-off workshop in Johannesburg from 2-4 September, Diehl metering and Sewerin covered important topics of water consumption monitoring and leak detection, while DQS South Africa presented on the importance of voluntary standard compliance to demonstrate their efforts in contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Next year, we will be bringing water monitoring online for our participating companies. We hope that after six months of monitoring, the project's data and experience will be feeding into national discussions on efficient water use and corporate water stewardship. We aim to demonstrate replicable models for reducing water stress across Southern Africa's industrial and commercial sectors.

As part of the global campaign of the Environmental Protection Made in Germany Initiative, we planted the indigenous and waterwise PomPom tree to counter climate change by reducing CO₂ and supporting green corridors in urban environments. This tree is a living symbol, of how WECISA is supporting companies build capacity, conserve precious water, and foster environmental resilience over time for a sustainable future.

Circular Economy Portfolio

In 2025, the portfolio deepened partnerships with leading sector institutions, including Circular Innovation South Africa (CISA), the Africa Circular Economy Network (ACEN), Circular Energy SA (CESA), and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – the national entity developing South Africa's ten-year Circular Economy Roadmap to 2032. Over the year, the team identified five new circular economy business opportunities, bringing the total to 23 opportunities communicated to German industry since 2023.



WECISA Water Efficiency Workshop in Johannesburg, 2-4 September 2025.



BMUKN EXI Programme tree planting initiative



Site visit at Mpact Plastics, a participant in the WECISA project.

A major milestone was the appointment of the CC:CE as a partner by SBS to implement a multi-year project fostering German–South African partnerships in the circular economy sector within the framework of the The Market Entry Program (MEP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

The year also marked the farewell of long-standing sector expert Rishel Dhar-mapall, whose dedication, expertise, and inspiring personality greatly elevated the portfolio. The CC:CE team expresses its sincere appreciation for his outstanding contribution and wishes him continued success in his new international role in the Philippines.

For more information on the project Scan or Click the QR Code below:



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African Skills 4 Germany (AS4G)

The African Skills 4 Germany (AS4G) pilot project, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), seeks to provide a sustainable response to Germany's growing shortage of skilled workers and apprentices. In the pilot phase, running from summer 2024 to December 2026, the project will focus on strategically identifying and recruiting qualified professionals and promising young apprentices from 11 African partner countries, building strong talent pathways that benefit both regions.

In Southern Africa, the 2025 pilot phase placed an emphasis on the Skilled Trades and Crafts sector, and targeted young aspiring artisans.

Project scope

AS4G delivers a comprehensive support framework designed to prepare candidates for successful entry into Germany's dual apprenticeship system.

Key components include:

- The identification of suitable candidates
- A structured two-phase interview process, including an aptitude assessment
- Thorough background and qualification verification
- German language training from A1 to B1 level
- Ongoing performance monitoring
- Comprehensive intercultural and integration preparation
- Employer-candidate matching
- Once a training contract has been secured, support with the visa application process

Project Foundations and Stakeholder Engagement

During the first half of the year, the project concentrated on establishing a strong operational foundation through in-depth research, stakeholder consultations, and collaborative planning with partners in both Germany and South Africa.



A key milestone was the April 2025 kick-off meeting held at the Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer (headquarters) in Berlin, where AS4G project managers from German Chambers and Delegations across Africa shared insights and aligned implementation approaches. This engagement prompted us to pursue a deeper collaboration with schools in the PASCH network in South Africa, with a key highlight being the Chamber's 'Skilled Workers for Germany' stall at the Deutsche Schule Johannesburg's 2025 Career Day, where AS4G was presented to prospective candidates.



Outreach and Marketing Activities

Throughout the year, AS4G undertook sustained outreach efforts to raise programme visibility and engage potential participants. The project featured on the X-Factored Youth podcast and launched an official presence on Servus Mzansi, a South African-German platform supporting South African youth's access to education, training, and career opportunities in Germany.

These initiatives strengthened awareness of skilled labour migration pathways and positioned AS4G as a viable route for young South Africans seeking apprenticeship opportunities in Germany



Selection and Development of the 2025 Cohort

Following a two-phase interview process, that included an aptitude assessment completed in August 2025, the first AS4G cohort was officially selected on 2 September 2025. The group comprised seven candidates aged 21 to 35, representing diverse levels of experience, from recently matriculated applicants to trade-tested and qualified individuals. The confirmed occupational areas for the 2025 intake included Automotive Engineering/Technology, Metal Construction, Bricklaying, Building Electrical Engineering/Technology, and Civil Engineering Construction Work.

The cohort completed their A1 German language examination on 22 November 2025.



Employer Engagement and German Stakeholder Roadshow

From 10 to 14 November 2025, AS4G conducted a stakeholder roadshow in southern Germany, engaging Chambers of Crafts, and business representatives interested in skilled labour migration. The roadshow strengthened connections with potential host companies, expanded awareness of apprenticeship placement opportunities, and contributed to future matchmaking activities.



Outlook for 2026

In 2026, the 2025 cohort will continue their language development, beginning A2 instruction in the first week of January. A new AS4G cohort will also be recruited, accompanied by an updated occupations list aligned with employer demand.

The upcoming year will focus on further strengthening programme delivery, enhancing cooperation between Southern Africa and Germany, and advancing opportunities within the framework of skilled labour migration and dual vocational training.



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Skills Expert Programme (SEP)

Since 1 July 2024, AHK Southern Africa has been part of the Skills Expert Programme (SEP), which focuses on recruiting skilled workers for Germany (Fachkräfte für Deutschland). This strategic initiative, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), seeks to address Germany's skilled labour shortages by facilitating the recruitment and training of qualified professionals from countries such as South Africa.

Overview of the Programme

The SEP focuses on sectors experiencing significant labour shortages in Germany, particularly the hospitality sector. In South Africa, the programme primarily targets qualified chefs and hotel managers. Candidates are required to have:

- A completed vocational qualification in the hospitality industry
- At least two years of practical experience
- Proficiency in German at a minimum of B1 level
- Personal qualities such as resilience, a positive attitude, and independence

Benefits for South African Participants

For South African professionals, the SEP offers:

- Assistance with obtaining employment in Germany
- Assistance with upskilling of German language proficiency to B1
- Support in acquiring a work visa and navigating the immigration process
- Integration support upon arrival in Germany
- Opportunities for career advancement in Germany's robust labour market

Opportunities for German Employers

German companies benefit from the SEP by gaining access to a pool of qualified professionals from South Africa, helping to alleviate skilled labour shortages in critical sectors. The programme facilitates the recruitment process, ensuring that candidates meet the necessary qualifications and language requirements.

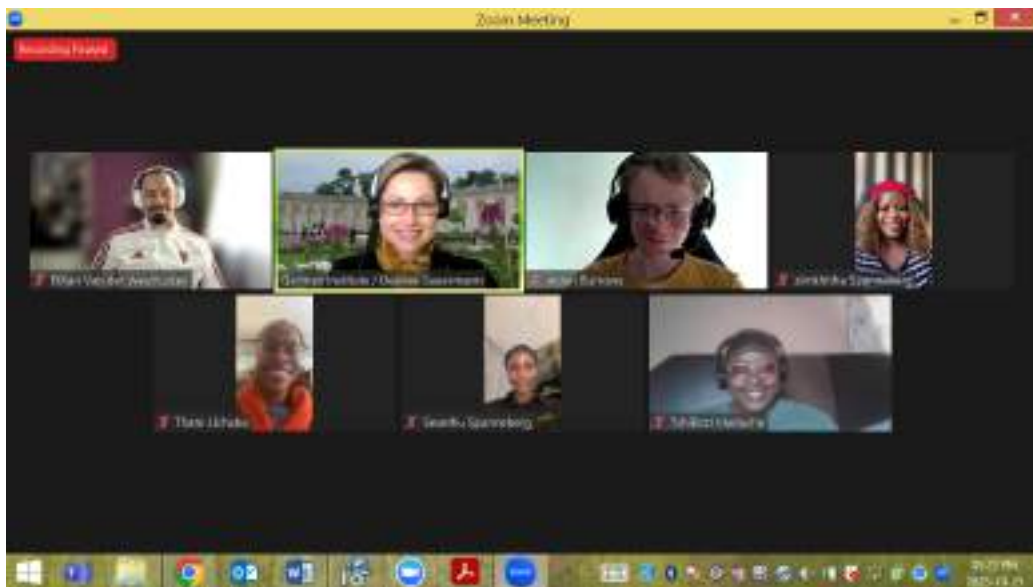
Highlights of 2025

Recruitment

In 2025, Danilla van Jaarsveldt conducted extensive recruitment efforts by visiting various hotel schools and universities. Following a rigorous two-stage interview process, seven candidates were selected to participate in the Skills Expert Programme (SEP).

German Language Training

The first group of candidates successfully completed their A1 and A2 German language courses. Starting in December, this group will begin a specialized German language course tailored specifically for chefs to enhance their professional language skills.



Participation in Key Events

2025 DSJ Career Day

At the Career Day organized by the Deutsch Schule Johannesburg, Danilla van Jaarsveldt engaged with prospective candidates for the SEP, fostering connections with future skilled workers.





1. Norddeutsche Wirtschaftskonferenz Afrika

Danilla van Jaarsveldt had the honour of participating in the 1. Norddeutsche Wirtschaftskonferenz Afrika in Hanover. This event, organized by the Northern German Chambers of Industry and Commerce in collaboration with Germany Trade & Invest, highlighted the potential for cooperation between Northern Germany and Africa. Danilla contributed to a panel discussion on Attracting Skilled Workers – Opportunities and Challenges in Skilled Labour Immigration from Africa.

Training at AHK Türkiye

International collaboration thrives on personal exchange, particularly within the Skills Experts Programme network funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE). During a business trip to Germany, Danilla van Jaarsveldt utilized a stopover in Istanbul to engage with AHK Türkiye's Oya Dinçdoğdu. This exchange provided valuable insights into strategies for securing skilled labour, including best practices in matching candidates with companies, contract structures, language training, financing of preparatory and pre-skilling programmes, as well as recognition of foreign qualifications.



Webinar: Potenziale nutzen: Fach- und Arbeitskräfte aus Afrika – Kooperationen und Lösungen

On 26 August 2025, Danilla van Jaarsveldt participated and presented at the webinar Potenziale nutzen: Fach- und Arbeitskräfte aus Afrika – Kooperationen und Lösungen, organised by the HK Bremen.



Roadshow:

To further raise awareness of the SEP Programme in Germany, Danilla van Jaarsveldt organised a small roadshow, which took place primarily in Baden-Württemberg and also included Augsburg. The objective of the roadshow was to engage with potential companies interested in recruiting skilled professionals from South Africa. Meeting with a broad range of companies was considered essential in order to increase the likelihood of suitable placements for candidates.

As part of the roadshow, the Skills Danilla van Jaarsveldt held discussions with the IHK Südlicher Oberrhein, the IHK Schwaben, bbw gGmbH (Hub4Africa Bayern), and the Handwerkskammer Stuttgart.

In addition, as part of the roadshow, Danilla van Jaarsveldt organised an information event in cooperation with the SEP Skills Expert of the AHK Egypt and the Welcome Centres of the IHK Reutlingen, the IHK Ulm, and the IHK Bodensee-Oberschwaben. The event, entitled „Netzwerkforum: Gewinnung von Auszubildenden und Fachkräften aus Südafrika und Ägypten“, brought together interested companies from the three regions.

The event focused on the recruitment of skilled workers and trainees from South Africa and Egypt. During the programme, the participating partners presented their respective initiatives and engaged directly with companies interested in international recruitment.



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FLAGSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Business Events: High-Level Government Engagements and Business Dialogues

Throughout 2025, the AHK Southern Africa continued to play a vital convening role by hosting a series of high-profile business luncheons and dialogues with senior government representatives. These engagements provided members with direct access to policymakers, fostered open and solutions-oriented dialogue, and reinforced the Chamber's commitment to strengthening the enabling environment for German-Southern African business.



DACH Business Luncheon with the Minister of Home Affairs

On 9 April 2025, the AHK Southern Africa, together with the Austrian Business Chamber and SwissCham, hosted a DACH Business Luncheon in Johannesburg with the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Leon Schreiber. The event brought together senior business leaders and diplomatic representatives from the German-speaking business community for a focused discussion on immigration, visa processing, customs systems, and the attraction of critical skills.

Minister Schreiber outlined plans to modernise Home Affairs systems through increased automation, transparency, and reduced reliance on human discretion, with the objective of enhancing efficiency and South Africa's competitiveness as an investment destination. The engagement was warmly received and marked an important step towards strengthening cooperation between business and government.

AHK Southern Africa CEO, Ms Simone Pohl, reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to constructive engagement with government, emphasising the importance of collaborative solutions to unlock South Africa's full potential as a regional gateway and destination for international investment.



Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Business Luncheon with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition

On 14 August 2025, the AHK Southern Africa hosted an exclusive Business Luncheon with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Parks Tau, under the theme “Positioning for the Future: German Industry and the Evolving Trade Landscape in Southern Africa.”

In his address, Minister Tau highlighted the strength of bilateral trade relations, noting Germany’s position as South Africa’s largest trading partner in Africa. He outlined government priorities to support exporters and industrial development, including new export support measures, localisation funding, tariff absorption mechanisms, and collaboration exemptions.

The Minister further emphasised South Africa’s strategic focus on green industrialisation, with opportunities across electric mobility, batteries, green hydrogen, renewable energy manufacturing, and clean trade partnerships with the European Union and Germany. South Africa’s role as a gateway to Africa, supported by Special Economic Zones and growing domestic and export demand, featured prominently in the discussion.

The official welcome by the AHK Southern Africa President, Peter van Binsbergen and keynote address was followed by a panel discussion, which brought together perspectives from business, industry, and government.

The panel featured:

- Nokwanda Maseko (Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies – TIPS)
- Jens Papperitz (B. Braun)
- Theo Boschhoff (Agbiz – Agricultural Business Chamber)
- Yandeya Mashau (dtic)

The session concluded with a call for deeper German–South African partnerships to drive sustainable growth, job creation, and value-added manufacturing.





Energy Matters: Business Dialogue with the Deputy Minister of Energy

On 18 August 2025, the AHK Southern Africa hosted an Energy Matters Business Dialogue with Deputy Minister of Energy, Ms Samantha Graham-Maré, at its Johannesburg office. The session provided members with insights into South Africa's evolving energy landscape and reform agenda.

The Deputy Minister emphasised the importance of a just energy transition, balancing energy security with job creation, social inclusion, and emissions reduction. Key themes included energy efficiency as a cornerstone of energy security, progress in nuclear energy and nuclear medicine, and the critical role of municipalities in enabling reform through procurement, embedded generation, and revenue model innovation.

Further discussions addressed renewable energy industrialisation, local manufacturing, carbon markets, and the importance of empowering women in the energy sector. The Deputy Minister reaffirmed Germany's role as a key partner in advancing South Africa's clean energy transition through technical cooperation, investment, and private sector engagement.

A moderated Q&A session, led by Mr Jens Hauser, Head of the AHK Southern Africa Competence Centre Climate & Environment, allowed for deeper engagement on policy, investment, and collaboration opportunities.





Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer für das südliche Afrika
Southern African German Chamber of Commerce and Industry



South African–German Business Breakfast with the German Ambassador

To close the year with a highlight, the AHK Southern Africa hosted a Business Breakfast with German Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini, H.E. Andreas Peschke, under the theme “G20 Highlights and the Road Ahead for 2026.”

The Ambassador shared first-hand reflections on key outcomes of the G20 and provided valuable insights into the geopolitical and economic considerations shaping the year ahead. The session offered members an opportunity to engage on international developments, bilateral cooperation, and future opportunities as preparations for 2026 commence.



Back-to-Work Networking Event – Johannesburg 2025

The AHK Southern Africa hosted its Annual Back-to-Work Networking Event on 31 January 2025 in Johannesburg, welcoming members and partners to the first major networking engagement of the year.

This exclusive, member-only event brought together more than 180 business leaders and stakeholders, providing a valuable platform for reconnection, collaboration, and forward-looking dialogue. The event served as an opportunity for members to re-engage after the festive period, renew relationships, and explore potential partnerships within the German–Southern African business community.

The programme commenced with a welcome address and strategic outlook from CEO, Ms Simone Pohl, who shared key insights into the year ahead. The overview highlighted anticipated priorities and opportunities, including South Africa’s role in the G20 and B20, planned delegations, projects, and upcoming high-level visits.

Following the address, participants engaged in informal networking, reconnecting with friends and partners while establishing new connections across sectors. Conversations centered on future plans, innovative collaborations, and aligned objectives for the year ahead.

Earlier that morning, AHK Southern Africa member company Messe Frankfurt hosted the Q1 Automotive Johannesburg CEO Networking Event. Automotive industry leaders who participated in this session subsequently joined the Back-to-Work Networking Event, further enriching the dialogue and cross-sector engagement.

The Annual Back-to-Work Networking Events both in Johannesburg and Cape Town continue to serve as a key platform for setting the tone for the year, reinforcing collaboration, and strengthening relationships within the German-Southern African Chamber’s business community.





Business Networking Event: Christmas in July – 3rd Edition

On 16 July 2025, the AHK Southern Africa Johannesburg office hosted the third edition of its flagship Business Networking Event: Christmas in July, bringing together members, partners, and guests for an evening that seamlessly combined professional engagement with festive celebration.

Designed as a distinctive networking platform, Christmas in July continues to offer businesses an opportunity to connect in an informal yet purposeful setting. Inspired by German Christmas festive traditions, the event created a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encouraged meaningful conversations, collaboration, and relationship-building. Guests enjoyed a curated selection of German and South African cuisine.

The event also served as an important meet-and-greet platform for new members, welcoming companies that joined the Chamber between January and July 2025. In total, 32 new member companies from a wide range of industries were introduced to the broader SAGCC business community, further strengthening the diversity and expertise of the network.



With over 140 attendees, the afternoon brought together seasoned executives, industry leaders, and emerging entrepreneurs, reinforcing the Chamber's role as a convener of business across sectors and generations. The success of the event was made possible through the support of the Chamber's valued sponsors and partners.

A special feature of the 2025 edition was the showcase area, which provided members with direct access to selected Chamber departments and strategic partners. Representatives from Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI) were present, offering insights into market entry, investment opportunities, and cooperation with Germany. In addition, the Chamber's Competence Centres—Mining & Mineral Resources, Education, Training & CSR, and Skills for Germany—were represented, enabling attendees to engage directly with colleagues on ongoing projects, services, and partnership opportunities.

Adding to the vibrancy of the event, the Chamber was pleased to welcome a showcase from Cross Country Air Safaris, a recent member company, which presented a visually captivating display highlighting unique travel experiences across Africa.

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More than a networking event, Christmas in July has become a celebration of collaboration, partnership, and the vibrant spirit of the German–Southern African business community. The continued growth and enthusiasm surrounding this flagship platform reflect the strong appetite for meaningful engagement beyond formal business settings.

The Chamber looks forward to hosting future editions of Christmas in July, continuing to strengthen relationships, welcome new members, and create valuable opportunities for connection and growth within the community.







2025 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The AHK Southern Africa hosted its Annual Gala Dinner and Business Excellence Awards on 7 November 2025 at The Wanderers Club in Johannesburg, bringing together members, partners, and stakeholders from across the German–Southern African business community.

The evening was officially opened by AHK Southern Africa President, **Mr Peter van Binsbergen**, who emphasised that the Gala Dinner serves as a celebration of excellence, innovation, and partnership. In his address, he highlighted that the companies represented extend their impact well beyond financial performance—strengthening industries, uplifting communities, and contributing to sustainable economic growth across the region.

The Chamber was honoured to welcome **H.E. Nina Warken**, German Federal Minister of Health, as a distinguished guest. The programme also featured keynote remarks by **H.E. Andreas Peschke**, German Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini. The event was further attended by **Mr Maximilian Butek**, who will officially assume his role as the Chamber’s Chief Executive Officer in February 2026

The evening also included a partner dialogue hosted in collaboration with **Forvis Mazars** and the **Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA)**. The discussion focused on business collaboration, the investment climate, and the shared commitment to advancing economic growth and bilateral trade between Germany and Southern Africa.

The formal programme concluded with the highlight of the evening the presentation of the Business Excellence Awards and Chamber Partner Awards, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Interim CEO, **Ms Alexa Gerrard**, who expressed appreciation to the Chamber’s sponsors, partners, and members for their continued trust and support.

Business Excellence Awards 2025

Award Winners and Recognitions

Excellence in Community Engagement

Winner: BMW Group South Africa

BMW Group South Africa was recognised for its *Pelo ya BMW Group* initiative, which mobilises employees, retailers, and customers to support education, cultural, and social development projects across South Africa. The initiative reflects a holistic and sustainable approach to corporate citizenship and community impact.

(Nominees included Bayer, Siemens Energy, Schächter Sports, Henkel, Stiebel Eltron Southern Africa, Absa Group, BASF South Africa, HOPE Cape Town Trust, Forvis Mazars, Daimler Truck Southern Africa, and Aurik Enterprise Development.)



Excellence in Innovation

Winner: BASF South Africa

BASF South Africa received the award for its *Mobile Tech Lab Initiative*, an innovative mobile laboratory that delivers diagnostic services directly to remote clients. The project exemplifies practical, customer-focused innovation that enhances service delivery and operational efficiency.

(Nominees included Aerzen, Dr. Oetker, and the Forvis Mazars Institute of Development.)



Excellence in Economic Development

Award Recipient:

B. Braun Medical South Africa
Recognised for its R300 million investment in expanding local pharmaceutical manufacturing, creating jobs, and advancing healthcare innovation in South Africa.



Excellence in Economic Development Award Recipient:

Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic)
Honoured for its role in strengthening German–South African trade relations through InvestSA and for supporting investor engagement across multiple industries.



Excellence in Economic Development Award Recipient:

Wesgro
Awarded for promoting the Western Cape as a destination for German investment and for fostering strategic partnerships and trade collaboration with the SAGCC.

(Additional nominees included Blouberg Municipality Sustainable Agriculture NPC, GGDA, AB InBev, MAN Automotive, CONTRACT SA, and Schauenburg Systems.)



Chamber Partner Recognition

The Chamber also acknowledged its key sponsors—BMW Group South Africa, Robert Bosch South Africa, Daimler Truck Southern Africa, Schauenburg Systems, Wilo, and Siemens—with Chamber Excellence Partner Awards, recognising their ongoing commitment to the Chamber’s mission and their contribution to strengthening bilateral business relations.



Thank You to Our Chamber and Event Sponsors.



SOUTH AFRICA AT A CROSS-ROADS: POLITICAL RENEWAL, ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, AND SHIFTING TRADE DYNAMICS



Jenny Tala, Director Southern Africa, Germany Trade & Invest

South Africa's political shift and rising global role contrast with economic strain from new U.S. tariffs. Key sectors like automotive and agriculture face pressure, while regional integration and stronger BRICS ties offer new opportunities. Germany remains a key strategic partner.

Democratic Transition and Political Maturity

The 2024 elections marked a historic turning point in South Africa's post-apartheid era. For the first time since 1994, the African National Congress (ANC) lost its absolute majority, leading to the formation of a Government of National Unity (GNU) composed of ten parties. International observers have praised this peaceful transition as a sign of democratic maturity and political stability - an encouraging signal for investors in an increasingly competitive geopolitical landscape.

This shift also reflects a broader regional trend: political legitimacy is now measured less by historical loyalty and more by tangible governance performance. As a result, new opportunities for reform are emerging, particularly in energy supply, labor market integration, and administrative modernization.

Economic Outlook: Cautious Optimism Amid Structural Challenges

Despite persistent structural challenges such as high unemployment and deep social inequality, the business community remains cautiously optimistic about South Africa's economic trajectory. According to the latest Business Outlook published by the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and KPMG, 77 percent of German companies operating in South Africa anticipate an improvement in the economic climate under the new government. Nearly half of these firms plan to invest within the next three years. However, this optimism is tempered by clear demands for reform. Businesses are calling for decisive action to combat corruption and crime, reduce bureaucratic red tape, and modernize critical infrastructure.

This cautious optimism is further constrained by a downgraded growth forecast. In June 2025, the IMF revised South Africa's GDP growth projection for the year downward to just 1.1 percent, from an earlier estimate of 1.3 percent. The revision reflects weaker-than-expected performance in the first half of the year, with key sectors such as mining and manufacturing contracting amid global demand shifts, renewed energy supply disruptions, and heightened geopolitical uncertainty. The subdued outlook underscores the urgency of structural reforms and the need to restore investor confidence in a volatile global environment.

Tariff Fallout and Shifting Trade Dynamics

These economic headwinds are compounded by escalating geopolitical tensions. Relations with the United States have cooled significantly, driven by South Africa's stance on the Israel-Gaza conflict, its close ties with Russia, and its legal action against Israel at the International Court of Justice. These diplomatic strains have translated into direct economic consequences. In mid-2025, the U.S. imposed steep tariffs of up to 31 percent on South African exports, hitting key sectors such as automotive, agriculture, and metals.

The fallout from these measures has been compounded by the expiration of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) at the end of September 2025. While AGOA had provided duty-free access to the U.S. market for over 1,800 products from 32 African countries, its benefits had already been largely eroded by the new tariff regime. South Africa, as the largest AGOA beneficiary, is particularly exposed. The loss of preferential access threatens the competitiveness of vital industries, especially automotive and agriculture, where thousands of jobs are now at risk.

In response, the South African government has submitted multiple proposals for new trade agreements to Washington, including sector-specific exemptions and reciprocal arrangements. However, none have been accepted so far, and negotiations remain stalled amid broader diplomatic tensions. To mitigate the impact, the government has launched a domestic support package aimed at stabilizing affected industries, promoting export diversification, and strengthening regional trade ties.

New Partnerships on the Rise

Amid strained transatlantic relations, South Africa is actively expanding its global partnerships. In March 2025, it hosted the EU-South Africa Investment Forum as part of the 8th SA-EU Summit in Cape Town. The summit reaffirmed the strategic partnership between South Africa and the European Union and introduced a €4.7 billion Global Gateway Investment Package focused on green hydrogen, critical minerals, infrastructure, and digital transformation. The event also underscored shared commitments to multilateralism and sustainable development.

Beyond Europe, South Africa is intensifying efforts to diversify trade relations with emerging markets. It is strengthening ties with BRICS partners such as China and India, while leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to access new regional markets. China, Africa's largest trading partner, announced in June 2025 that it would eliminate nearly all import tariffs on African goods - a move that could significantly boost South African exports.

In recent months, President Cyril Ramaphosa has also engaged directly with leaders from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and key Asian economies. These visits reflect Pretoria's strategic pivot toward emerging markets and newly expanded BRICS members. The inclusion of countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, and Indonesia into BRICS opens new avenues for trade, investment, and geopolitical cooperation. South Africa's outreach to these partners is not only a response to U.S. tariffs but also a proactive strategy to build resilient, diversified trade relationships in a shifting global order.

South Africa's G20 Presidency and Germany's Role

South Africa's international profile continues to grow. In 2025, it became the first African country to hold the G20 presidency. Germany has responded with strong diplomatic engagement. Over the course of the year, several high-level visits took place, including those by federal ministers and Chancellor Friedrich Merz. These visits reflect Germany's intent to deepen bilateral ties and position itself as a reliable partner in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

Germany remains South Africa's most important European partner and third-largest trading partner overall. In a fragmented global landscape, Germany and the European Union are positioning themselves as stable allies. South Africa continues to serve as a strategic gateway to the continent, politically, economically, and institutionally. The country's relatively advanced infrastructure, functioning capital markets, and strong institutions offer competitive advantages. German companies are particularly active in Gauteng's industrial heartland and Cape Town's tech scene.

Future-oriented cooperation is gaining momentum in areas such as renewable energy, green hydrogen, circular economy, water management, critical minerals, and digital services. A notable initiative is the German Investment Package, unveiled by South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), featuring 58 projects worth 37 billion U.S. dollars, many tailored to German firms.

South Africa is by far Germany's most important trading partner in Africa

Trade with Germany 2024 (million Euro)



Germany is #3 of South Africa's Top Trading Partners

South Africa's Top 5 Trading Partners 2024 (in million Euro)



Conclusion: Navigating Complexity with Strategic Partnerships

South Africa's political renewal and economic recalibration come at a time of global uncertainty. While U.S. tariffs pose serious challenges, they also catalyze efforts to diversify trade, strengthen regional integration, and deepen partnerships with Europe and BRICS nations. For German and European companies, this moment offers both risk and opportunity, provided they stay engaged and adapt to the evolving landscape.



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