



German Business Delegation to South Africa: 4.-9. May 2025

Participate in our conference and network!

Innovative Water Management for a Sustainable Future: German-South African Perspectives

Date: 6. May 2025

Time: 09:00-17:00

Location: Radisson Blu Gautrain Hotel, Sandton Johannesburg
Corner of Rivonia Road & West Street Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196

Participation free of charge

Conference contact: Southern African - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry NPC (SAGCC)

Vera Massie

Competence Centre: Climate and Environment

Water Portfolio Manager

Cape Town Office

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Our Business Delegation from Baden-Wuerttemberg



The delegation is coordinated by Baden-Württemberg International, the Agency for International Economic and Scientific Cooperation of the State of Baden-Württemberg, and supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour, and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg. Baden-Württemberg has a Business Representation in South Africa, with Alexa Gerrard, Deputy Managing Director of the SAGCC, serving as the Business Representative. Since 2019, the Baden-Württemberg Business Representation has been fostering connections between companies from southwest Germany and Southern Africa.



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

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Conference programme:**Tuesday, 6 May 2025**

08:30-09:00	Registration and welcome tea/snacks
09:00-09:10	Housekeeping: Vera Massie, Water Portfolio Manager Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAGCC) Safety announcement Official Welcome and opening remarks: Alexa Gerrard, Deputy CEO SAGCC
09:10-09:30	Keynote address - The perfect storm, the perfect opportunity, the convenient truth Benoît Le Roy, Operations Director and a shareholder at Nexus Water Alchemy, as well as the founding Director and CEO of Water Ledger South Africa
09:30-10:30	Panel discussion – Managing the Paradox of Water: Addressing Flooding and Water Scarcity Simultaneously Dr. Shafick Adams, Executive Manager Water Resources and Ecosystems - Water Research Commission (WRC) Philippa Rodseth, Executive Director of The Manufacturing Circle Matt Braune, Founder and CEO of Bio Engineering Africa Q&A
10:30-10:45	Tea and comfort break
10:45-11:45	Introduction to the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg Philipp Marx, Manager for Internationalisation at Baden-Württemberg International 5-Minute pitch from German delegates DEHOUST – Andreas Bichler Föll Technology & Innovation ReProWa GmbH – Falk Foell, representing Inflowtec Innovative Flow Technologies ARIS – Stefan Prakesch VEGA – Tyron Azevedo KMU Loft Cleanwater – Bernd Vollmer Hide and grow – Fiona Sailer Zander Agro – Ruslan Lavrinenko UTBW – Umwelttechnik Baden-Wuerttemberg – Michaela Gerdes IHK Reutlingen Green Space Center – Tobias Adamczyk
11:45-13:30	Lunch and networking with German delegates, government representatives, German Embassy, conference participants and speakers
13:30-14:30	Panel discussion - Leveraging Technology for Energy-Efficient Water and Wastewater Management Richard Garner, Head of Environmental Service Department of MSA Group Mpho Makgata, Executive Manager Operations of ERWAT – Ekurhuleni Water Care Company Benoit Le Roy, Operations Director and Shareholder of Nexus Water Alchemy and founding director and CEO Water Ledger SA Q&A
14:30	Closure and afternoon tea
14:30-17:00	Networking

* Please note that the programme is subject to change. Date: 6 May 2025.



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Speaker Information



Benoît Le Roy

Operations Director and a shareholder at Nexus Water Alchemy, as well as the founding Director and CEO of Water Ledger South Africa

Benoît is the Operations Director and a shareholder at Nexus Water Alchemy, as well as the founding Director and CEO of Water Ledger South Africa. Water Ledger, now part of a global parent company, specialises in cutting-edge digital solutions for the water sector. Based in Ireland, the team—of which Benoît is a founding director—has achieved global recognition as the first to successfully tokenise water trades using a distributed ledger approach.

Currently, Benoît plays a leading role in efforts to revitalise South Africa’s water sector. As co-founder and CEO of the South African Water Chamber, he is driving initiatives aimed at enhancing water resilience and attracting investment by bridging the expectations of both public and private stakeholders.

He is also a regular contributor to local and international publications and media on issues relating to water, innovation, and sustainability.



Dr. Shafick Adams

Senior Research Manager at the Water Research Commission

Shafick is a Senior Research Manager at the Water Research Commission, where he leads the Water Availability thematic area. Since 2022, he has been a Commissioner of the Presidential Climate Commission, contributing to national strategies addressing climate challenges. He is also a board member of The Groundwater Project, an international initiative dedicated to enhancing human capacity in groundwater management and fostering public understanding of groundwater issues. As a registered Natural Scientist and a Senior Fellow of the Water Institute of South Africa He is also a Fellow of the Geological Society of South Africa and has been actively involved in various strategic boards, panels, and task teams focused on advancing water security and capacity development in the water sector. Previously, he served as the Chair of the Groundwater Division of the Geological Society of South Africa and as Co-Chair of the International Water Association’s Groundwater Restoration and Management Specialists Group. He is deeply committed to human capacity development, exemplified through his mentorship initiatives, research endeavours, and engagement with professional organisations.



Philippa Rodseth

Executive Director of The Manufacturing Circle

Philippa Rodseth is the Executive Director of the Manufacturing Circle. Her career began as an Architect working on commercial projects in South Africa and Hong Kong. After obtaining an MBA from WITS Business School, she joined First National Bank’s Commercial Division in 2003 and spent seven years working first in a private equity team funding black youth empowered business, and then as a leveraged finance deal maker.

In 2012 Philippa established Spoke Consulting, which identifies and accesses funding for projects in Africa. She then joined the Manufacturing Circle in 2015 to elevate the voice of manufacturing in South Africa, promoting the sector’s development as South Africa’s greatest opportunity for job-rich growth.



Matt Braune

Founder and CEO of Bio Engineering Solutions (Pty) Ltd.

Matt Braune is a professionally registered civil engineer with 38 years of experience in the consulting engineering industry. He is the founder of Bio Engineering Solutions (Pty) Ltd, an associate member of IMESA, a council member of ECSA, and a member of DMISA.

Matt began his career at Concor Construction in 1982 before joining SRK Consulting in 1986, where he later became a director, focusing on municipal and mining-related projects. He led initiatives in stormwater master planning, river rehabilitation, and urban water management, and in 2000, established SRK’s Pretoria office.

In 2016, Matt founded Bio Engineering Africa Consulting and Training Academy. He became an ECSA-registered mentor and supported over 25 engineers and technicians through the SAICE-PDP programme. Recognizing a broader need for mentorship and skills transfer, he has worked with emerging consulting firms and is now developing a mentoring and learnership academy to build technical and managerial capacity in



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the civil engineering sector.

He has international experience from engagements in the USA, Canada, Australia, and Europe, and has received two “Best Technical Paper” awards from IMESA.

Mpho Makgata

Executive Manager Operations of ERWAT – Ekurhuleni Water Care Company



Mpho Makgata is a professional Water Resource Scientist with over 18 years’ experience in water and sanitation provision, with experience in water and wastewater treatment process designs, construction supervision, operations and maintenance of conventional and rudimentary water and wastewater treatment systems. He has been involved in the development of water & sanitation services master plans and implementation of capital infrastructure projects for various municipal councils within SA. Mpho Makgata also has experience in research work for innovative wastewater treatment technologies and has also served as a part-time lecturer and external examiner for the Tshwane University of Technology. He currently holds a position of Operations Executive Manager at ERWAT.

Richard Garner

Head of Environmental Services, MSA Group

MSc., Pr.Sci.Nat, CWEP, CMVP-it



Richard has over 20 years of professional experience in both mining and other industries. Richard had a long career at Anglo American as Environmental and then Global Water Manager before going into full-time consulting since 2014. His expertise includes mining projects, environmental and safety management systems, water management, efficiency and strategy, rehabilitation programmes and mine closure, social development, risk assessments, international governance standards and extensive environmental and safety due diligence reviews and audits. His exposure covers a wide variety of mining commodities from Platinum, Diamonds and Rare Earth Metals to Coal and Iron Ore.



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