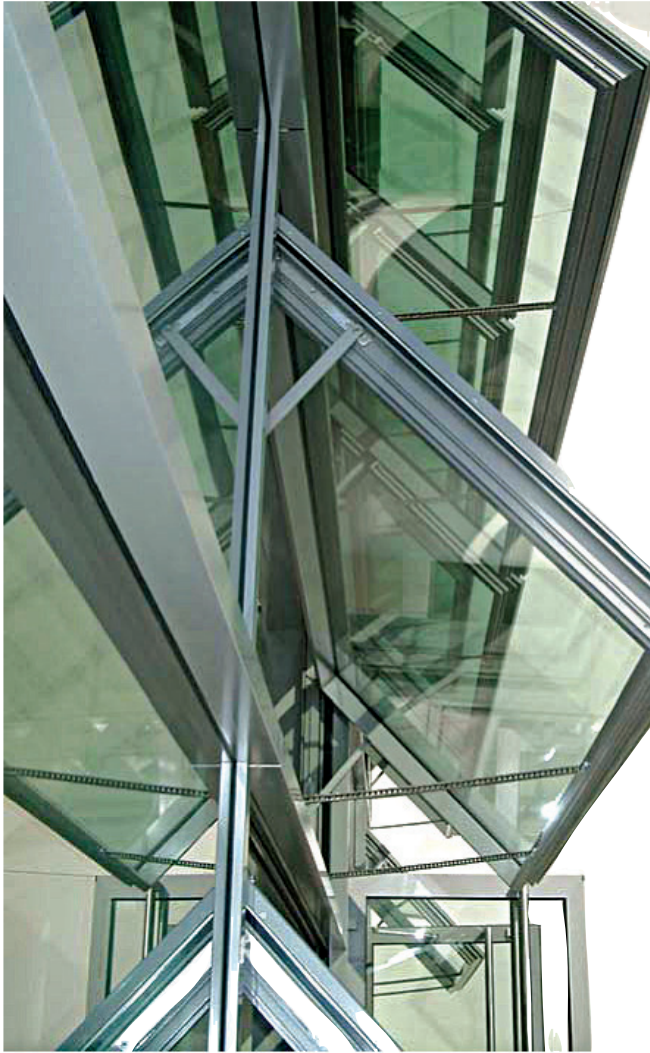


# News & Views



## Natural ventilation

'Simplicity at its Best' is how Russell Cramb of Robertson Ventilation Industries describes the installation of the natural ventilation system at the new Pretoria University Engineering Block. The system was designed to automate the windows on demand or from a BMS signal, to achieve the optimum amount of natural ventilation when external temperature conditions are favourable.

The equipment selected for the engineering block was the SE Controls-manufactured OS2 control panel, which operates on a modular system allowing the occupant to manually activate the automatic opening ventilators on demand.

The technology is relatively new to South Africa and has been designed to monitor internal and external conditions and operate according to set parameters to control the internal comfort for occupants. To achieve this, rain and wind sensors, thermostats, external and internal temperature sensors and various switches can be installed for additional control. The control system allows for input from any BMS system to create proportional switching and thus allows the windows to open in 10 % increments to match small temperature movements.

The design and installation of the natural ventilation system for the Engineering Block was carried out by Robertson Ventilation Industries who have accumulated a large amount of experience in the window automation industry.

Russell says, "The window automation market in South Africa is still in its infancy and is growing rapidly which is why we have aligned ourselves with an international manufacturer like SE Controls. They offer us a complete service, from intelligent design, through to product selection and installation guidance".

*Robertson Ventilation Industries, Tel: 011 608 4640/4642/4586*

## Economic lions

South African retailers, such as Shoprite and Massmart, have pioneered the retail drive up Africa, while Wal-Mart, which has entered Africa with the highly publicised Massmart transaction, has clearly indicated that attractive potential exists for its expansion on the African continent.

"African retailing is really South African retailing, where almost all of the continent's bustling commerce activity takes place. Considering the lack of globalisation, South African retail companies, particularly their food retailers, are large in comparison to other retailers around the world," notes the 2011 'Global Powers of Retailing' (Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Stores Magazine report).

According to 'Lions on the Move – the Progress and Potential of African economies' research report by McKinsey Global Institute, "today, while Asia's tiger economies continue to expand rapidly, we foresee the potential rise of economic lions in Africa's future."

It is projected that 50% of Africans will be living in cities by 2030 and that the continent's top 18 cities could have a combined spending power of USD 1.3 trillion by this time.

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## Two firsts

Now in its 101st year of supplying materials to the construction and automobile industries, Sika also sets itself the highest standards of Environmental Management by complying with ISO14001.

Sika SA was the first construction chemical company in South Africa to achieve this in 2006 and is still the only construction chemical company to have this rating.

Sika SA managing director, Paul Adams claims it does not help to source a few products from third parties and claim your company is green. He also advises end users and specifiers to visit manufacturing plants such as Sika to see that the company is truly committed to sustainability. "Ask them about disposal procedures and raw material sourcing. ISO 14001 helps us at Sika to commit to the "cradle to the grave concept".

Sika is now pleased to announce yet another achievement; the Occupational Health and Safety Certification - OHSAS 18001, awarded in 2011. Sika is the first construction chemicals company in South Africa to be awarded this certification.