

# Media Release



## **SMEC South Africa recognised at 2019 CESA Aon Engineering Excellence Awards**

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Two major projects undertaken by SMEC South Africa were recognised at the recent CESA Aon Awards, held in August in Johannesburg. The awards are given in recognition of excellence in the field of engineering and cover several different categories.

The construction of Main Road 118 between Oranjemund and Rosh Pinah for the Namibian Roads Authority was awarded a Commendation in the *Best International Project* category. The 98 kilometres of Main Road 118 connecting the world's largest alluvial diamond deposit at Oranjemund, Namibia, and its eighth largest zinc mine near Rosh Pinah, had existed for nearly 100 years as a gravel road. It was in urgent need of re-construction and in 2013 SMEC, through its Namibian subsidiary VKE Namibia, was appointed to design and oversee the construction of a new road to full bitumen standards.

The challenges to this project were both physical and administrative. The former included the geography of the area, which runs through the wind-swept Namib gravel plains, rough mountainous country and shifting sand dunes. The administrative challenge was the extremely short time allowed between appointment and the contract commencement date: in fact, only three weeks were available for the preparation of full tender documents. Despite this, the project was completed to the highest quality standards and is a monument to the harmonious blend of a road with its beautiful surroundings.

The Upgrade of the Mt Edgecombe Interchange on the N2, Section 26, was deemed the winner in the *Roads and Bridges* category. This project was a successful combination of pleasing aesthetics and innovative engineering design which resolved a pressing problem of ever-growing traffic demands, while also facilitating further growth in one of Durban's fastest growing areas.

Major design constraints were overcome by using a four-level, free-flow interchange configuration. Thorough construction management ensured that good quality work was delivered, resulting in the completion of a highly successful project which fully met the client, South African Roads Agency SOC Ltd, expectations and was received with enthusiastic approval by the community.

**About SMEC:**

*SMEC is a global engineering, management and development consultancy delivering technical excellence and specialist solutions to our clients, partners and communities. In 2016 SMEC joined the Surbana Jurong Group, which is headquartered in Singapore and has a global workforce of 16,000 employees across 120 offices in more than 40 countries in Asia, Australia, UK, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.*