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AND ENGINEERING



Dolomite
GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANTS
Efficient, Reliable And Timely



MULTIDISCIPLINARY MASTERS

WCE Consulting Engineers aspires to be the leading and preferred multidisciplinary consulting and engineering company in Namibia and across the broader African region. We hear more about the burgeoning business from Managing Director, Victor Rieger

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With a modest population of approximately three million, the equivalent of just four people per square kilometre, Namibia is considered the least populated country in Africa.

The nation is vast, and providing infrastructure is challenging due to the limited financial resources associated with the small population.

However, Namibia has overcome these obstacles and developed one of the continent's best road infrastructure systems, which is continuously being expanded and upgraded. With continued investment in infrastructure, Namibian engineers and contractors have access to abundant opportunities.

With further developments in oil and gas, green hydrogen, and mining, to name just a few, Namibia is set for growth across the board.

One company thriving amongst this national upturn is WCE Consulting Engineers (WCE).

"Compared to other African countries I have travelled to, I believe Namibia has a strong local engineering and contractor fraternity, capable of completing almost any

Above: First National Bank (FNB) Windhoek building. **Left:** Kranzberg-Tsuneb Railway. **Centre-left:** Namibia Training Authority (NTA) Keetmanshoop - scaffolding around. **Left large:** Second slurry seal being applied on one of the bitumen roads at Oshakati North dormitory building. **Centre-left below:** Bank Windhoek Capricorn building (EDGE certified) - recycled air filters used for lighting shades. **Far-left below:** Supplying fabricated parts for the Deepsea Bollsta oil rig



AFRICA OUTLOOK: HOW WERE YOU FIRST INTRODUCED TO THE INDUSTRY?

Victor Rieger, Managing Director: “My father was a contractor, and from an early age, I accompanied him to projects during school holidays. This early exposure ignited my passion for engineering and inspired me to pursue a career where I could contribute to infrastructure development – an essential driver of economic growth in the region.

“I completed my studies at the University of Johannesburg in 1997 and started my career at Stocks & Stocks. My first role was as a site engineer on the Bafokeng Sports Palace near Rustenburg, which later became a 2010 FIFA World Cup venue.

“In 1999, I was given an opportunity to work on a water reclamation plant project in Windhoek, Namibia, and moved there with my wife. Upon completing the project, I joined WCE in 2000 to gain design experience and work towards professional registration. 25 years later, we are still in Windhoek, which has become our home.

“My journey in engineering began with a deep-seated passion for problem-solving and a desire to contribute meaningfully to infrastructure development. Over the years, I have been fortunate to work on diverse projects that have shaped my understanding of the industry and honed my leadership ability. My career path has been driven by a commitment to excellence and innovation, ultimately leading me to my current role as Managing Director of WCE.”



infrastructure development project from start to finish,” introduces Victor Rieger, Managing Director.

“We are not reliant on external engineers from other countries other than those that are very specialised.

“However, there is growing concern amongst local contractors that projects are increasingly being taken up by foreign companies, and the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) is continuously lobbying for the interests of local businesses to ensure sustainability for the Namibian construction industry,” he elaborates.

In this way, Africa's engineering and construction landscape finds itself at a pivotal moment, as the rapid urbanisation of low-income earners represents a challenge to the government in providing serviced land on which people can construct housing.

Due to limited finances and regulatory constraints, providing serviced land in the major urban centres remains a problem. Despite this, should the partnership of government and industry prove successful in solving the financing and regulatory challenges, there will be excellent opportunities for engineers and contractors in this sector, which, in turn, will significantly impact people's livelihoods.

“In response to these hurdles, the sector remains dynamic and rewarding. Notably, there is an increasing emphasis on sustainable practices, digital transformation, and capacity building, reshaping how projects are conceived and executed. This requires continuous industry adaptation to remain valid and competitive,” Rieger tells us.

50 YEARS OF SUCCESS

WCE is a multidisciplinary engineering consultancy that delivers high-quality solutions to complex engineering problems.

Established in 1977, the company





Left: Southern African Customs Union (SAGU) building. **Left below:** Awasblich highway extension. **Right:** Independence building. **Right above:** Culverts (Kranzberg-Tsumeb Railway)



“LOOKING AHEAD, WE PLAN TO FOCUS ON EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT, ENHANCING SERVICE DELIVERY, AND EMBRACING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION”

- VICTOR RIEGER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WCE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

will soon celebrate 50 years in the African engineering industry as a proud Namibian-owned business.

Today, WCE provides a swathe of civil, structural, electrical, mechanical, transport engineering, and project management services.

“We are headquartered in Windhoek, Namibia, and have additional offices in Walvis Bay, Ongwediva, Otjiwarongo, and Lüderitz to ensure we provide cost-effective services throughout the entire nation,” Rieger states.

“Our team is comprised of highly skilled professionals who are committed to excellence and integrity and cater to a diverse client

base, including government entities, private sector stakeholders, and international partners.”

Currently, WCE focuses on large transportation projects such as railway lines, airports, harbour structures, and national roads. This is supported by the company’s civil department, which develops large water infrastructure projects, including reservoirs, water purification plants, and water distribution schemes.

This arm of the business also works on sewer infrastructure, including pump stations and sewer treatment works. The civil department also specialises in the servicing of land throughout Namibia. ■

Over 40 years of combined EXCo experience in geotechnical engineering

Firstly, could you provide some insight into Dolomite Geotechnical Services? What does the company do, and what facilities does it have?

Dolomite Geotechnical Consultants is a 100 percent Namibian-owned and controlled geotechnical engineering consulting firm. Our executive team possesses over 40 years of combined EXCo experience in geotechnical engineering and quality assurance in civil engineering projects. Our mission is to establish ourselves as a preeminent and reliable partner, providing geotechnical services in Namibia and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Our primary service offerings encompass geotechnical investigations, centre line material surveys, borrow pit prospecting, hydrogeological investigations, process and acceptance control, research and construction material design, and other related services. Our clientele encompasses industries such as roads, railways, aviation, and building infrastructure developments.

We possess three fully operational geotechnical engineering facilities, strategically situated in Keetmanshoop, Otjwarongo, and Ongwediva. Additionally, we have a project management office located in Windhoek. Our operations provide flexibility to establish mobile or site geotechnical laboratories to cater to the specific requirements of our clients.

We are committed to training and employing local talent and fostering skills development in Namibia. Our mentorship programme is designed to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from engineers to technicians and from industry

experts to our engineers. This ensures that we possess up-to-date knowledge in the latest trends and problem-solving methodologies in geotechnical engineering.

Does the company use any innovative or cutting-edge equipment?

Our facilities adhere to prescribed international best practice geotechnical engineering standards. We also subscribe to effective quality control systems in compliance with the requirements of SANAS, TMH, SABS, SABITA, and ASTM. Our facilities are also equipped with state-of-the-art geotechnical equipment to ensure timely, efficient, and reliable quality assurance, such as nuclear gauge devices for determining compaction densities (Troxler), a concrete cube press machine, a concrete reinforcement cover detector machine, a California Bearing Ratio (CBR) press machine, DCP devices, a core drilling machine, a dosimeter, etc. We employ advanced software and data management systems for site auditing, reporting, and quality assurance.

Our quality management process ensures the accuracy, reliability, and compliance of all testing and reporting activities. Each project commences with customised protocols that adhere to industry standards, supported by a stringent QA/QC system, regular equipment calibration, and comprehensive documentation. Multi-tier review procedures and internal audits facilitate the maintenance of high standards, whilst ongoing training for field and laboratory technicians ensures that our methodologies remain aligned with contemporary advancements. This rigorous approach facilitates the provision of precise, timely data that supports project success and client confidence.

“We firmly believe in the realisation of Namibia’s development aspirations.”





Eliaser,
Managing Director:
Dolomite Geotechnical
Consultants



Salatiel,
Director: Ongwediva
& Otjiwarongo
Operations



Andreas,
Director: Keetmanshoop
Operations

Our approach to continuous improvement and adaptability emphasises staying responsive to evolving project requirements and industry best practices. We conduct regular project evaluations and gather client feedback to identify areas for improvement, ensuring that each phase of our work aligns with current demands. By implementing adaptive workflows and embracing new technologies as they become available, we optimise our processes for efficiency and accuracy. Furthermore, our team participates in ongoing training and development, empowering them to implement innovative techniques and solutions tailored to each project's unique challenges. This proactive approach enables us to deliver consistently high-quality results that meet both immediate and future project needs.

When and how was Dolomite Geotechnical Services established?

Dolomite Geotechnical Services was conceived in 2013 but officially launched in 2020. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic during this time, we opened our doors with unwavering determination to establish ourselves as a significant player in the geotechnical engineering industry of Namibia.

Due to limited funding and the high cost of specialised machinery to operate our operations, we commenced with only one lean facility in Ongwediva. The initial set-up phase presented unique challenges, but through unwavering perseverance, we successfully expanded to two additional facilities in Keetmanshoop and Otjiwarongo, and established a project management office in Windhoek within less than four years.

Whilst we perceive geotechnical engineering as an entrepreneurial opportunity, our primary motivation is to contribute to the infrastructure development and knowledge base enhancement of our nation, thereby alleviating poverty through employment creation.

What type of projects has the company previously worked on? Looking ahead, are there any upcoming projects or investments you would like to pay special mention to?

Our team has been involved in a diverse range of projects, encompassing geotechnical investigations, borrow prospecting, centre line surveys, research, and materials design. We have also conducted quality assurance testing of construction materials, including soils, gravels, bitumen, aggregates, and concrete. These projects have been

undertaken in various sectors, such as roads, railways, civil structures, and electrical infrastructure.

In the near future, we are partnering with Windhoek Consulting Engineers (WCE) to provide specialised laboratory services for the railway transport infrastructure improvement project spanning approximately 400 kilometres between Kranzberg and Tsumeb. Additionally, we are considering investing in advanced equipment to enhance our hydrogeology and drilling capabilities. Furthermore, we are exploring opportunities to expand our services to neighbouring countries within the SADC region. Our objective is to establish strategic partnerships and collaborations with consulting, construction, and educational institutions to ensure the achievement of high-quality project outcomes.

What is Dolomite Geotechnical Services primary objective?

Our primary objective is to establish ourselves as a leading partner in geotechnical engineering services. We aspire to deliver efficient, timely, and reliable high-quality results to our clients. Additionally, we are committed to addressing unemployment and poverty through job creation initiatives within the communities where our operations are situated. We firmly believe in the realisation of Namibia's development aspirations and have strategically positioned ourselves to contribute to the value chain that supports the construction and maintenance of quality infrastructure, ensuring value for money.

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<http://www.dolomite.com.na>

JOB CREATION FOR LOCAL NAMIBIANS

WCE has four pillars for job creation initiatives to ensure a sustainable influx of engineers and enable continued growth.

- Firstly, WCE provides bursaries to young Namibians across various sectors, not only engineers. The company also needs accountants, human resources (HR), IT, and administrative personnel.
- Secondly, WCE has a strong training programme offering one-year contracts to graduates. At the end of this, the company offers permanent positions to the best candidates.
- Thirdly, the company appoints Namibians where it requires a specific skill set. Although WCE encourages juniors to grow within the organisation, it also appoints experienced engineers, especially given the current growth phase.
- Fourthly, if WCE has a project that requires a unique skillset for a short duration, it will appoint employees on a contract basis. For example, it has recently contracted small Namibian engineering companies to provide teams to work on site supervision contracts for a new railway line.

Leveraging these four pillars, WCE believes it can secure the required resources and sustainably to create better opportunities and employment for Namibians.



“OUR TEAM IS COMPRISED OF HIGHLY SKILLED PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY AND CATER TO A DIVERSE CLIENT BASE, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS”

- VICTOR RIEGER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WCE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

“Elsewhere, our structural department is essentially our marketing team due to its showcase of impressive high-rise buildings, large distribution centres, warehousing, bridges, and other structural design work.”

Finally, this is complemented by the mechanical and electrical departments that do all mechanical and electrical designs for WCE’s buildings. As divisions in their own right, they encompass electrical distribution networks, renewable energy, heating, cooling, and various other specialised mechanical works.

Pulling everything together is the company’s project management



office, where all disciplines are pulled together to ensure successful projects.

REDEFINING EXPECTATIONS

To date, WCE has developed a tried



its deep knowledge of the Namibian market, alongside its network of service providers and industry leaders throughout many sectors of the economy, which it leverages to support client projects.

“Suppose a client has an opportunity that they want to explore. In that case, we can assemble a team of people or organisations from across all sectors required to enable the project and, therefore, not be

limited to solely our engineering input,” he explains.

In addition, WCE leverages the latest technology and is currently exploring new and more efficient business methods, such as integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT).

“Looking ahead, we plan to focus on expanding our footprint, enhancing service delivery, and embracing digital transformation. We also aim to strengthen our capabilities in emerging engineering trends, exploring new market opportunities such as oil and gas as well as green hydrogen.”

Elsewhere, WCE believes there is a high probability that the Namibian oil and gas sector could rapidly expand should one of the major national companies start developing their oilfields.

“We are positioning ourselves to be the preferred local partner for foreign companies being established in Namibia and are also upskilling our employees to participate in the future oil and gas work designed and constructed in Namibia by Namibians,” Rieger finishes optimistically. 🌐



and tested client-centric approach and is committed to providing industry-leading engineering services with a proudly Namibian team.

“Above all else, we ensure that we understand the client’s needs before we begin a project to ensure that it is delivered in line with their expectations,” Rieger acclaims.

Currently, the company is also focused on enabling projects through



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