

September 2009 Newsletter

Feedback on Recent Activities

Energy Stakeholder Workshop

- A well attended energy stakeholder workshop was held on 30 September 2009. The workshop focus was on demand side management and tariff update.
- The guest speakers were Prashunt Lutchman (Distribution Key Customer Executive, Eskom) and Pradesh Mewalala (Senior Process Advisor, Eskom).
- Attendees were given a opportunity to engage representatives from eThekweni Electricity and uMsunduzi Municipality regarding the increases in electricity tariffs.



HIV and AIDS Programme

- The fees for participating in the joint DAC-SABCOHA initiative have been finalised. Cluster members wishing to participate in the initiative are required to pay a fee of R1,000 which entitles them to full programme benefits.
- Given that SABCOHA is a not for profit organisation firms are however encouraged to make some form of an additional contribution to the organisation over and above this base fee.
- Four firms have committed to participation of the second group of firms participating in this programme and additional firms interested in participating are encouraged to contact Jan Smuts (email jan@bmanalysts.com) as soon as possible.

Market Access Activities

- A market access plan for accessing key export markets has been developed for the DAC. This plan is aimed at supporting DAC member firms access export market opportunities primarily in the EU and in Africa.
- Available information on future trade missions has been consolidated and is available to DAC members upon request.
- For more information on either of the above please contact Aurelia Govender (email aurelia@bmanalysts.com).

Graduate Development Programme

- Ramsay Engineering has appointed three engineering graduates and enrolled them in the DAC's Graduate Development Programme.
- 160 Graduates with engineering-based qualification have applied to join the Graduate Development Programme and facilitators are in the process of engaging with a number of firms regarding the placement of these graduates.
- For more information please contact Jan Smuts (email jan@bmanalysts.com).

Joint Supplier Auditing and Development (JSAD) Programme

- PFK Electronics hosted a 5S training session for suppliers to Behr, Federal Mogul Powertrain Systems, Pi Shurlok and PFK Electronics on 15 September 2009. The guest presenter was Kylie Griffin (HR Manager, PFK Electronics).
- There are currently 107 tier two suppliers being developed through the activities of the three JSAD groups.
- For any enquiries regarding the Joint Supplier Auditing and Development Programme please contact Jan Smuts (jan@bmanalysts.com).

Remuneration and Retention Practises Survey

- The DAC's Remuneration and Retention Practises survey has been finalised.
- The survey covered 24 specific jobs descriptions (mostly engineering and artisan related jobs).
- The possibility of repeating the survey in 2010 or 2011 will be evaluated following feedback from participating firms.

Retrenchment and Skills Pool Database

- The DAC has launched a skills pool and retrenchment database. This database contains information on automotive employees that have been retrenched recently and have skills recognised as being scarce.
- Particular skill sets targeted include artisan, engineering and management skills.
- Members either wishing to register retrenched employees on the database or looking to employ previously retrenched employees are encouraged to contact Jan Smuts (tel 031 765 3870 or email jan@bmanalysts.com).

DAC Website:

- The DAC website has been revamped and now reflects the strategic focus areas identified as being central to achieving the 2020 objective of doubling the size of the local automotive industry.
- The new website can be viewed at www.dbnautocluster.org.za.

Confirmed and Unconfirmed activities for September

HIV/AIDS Programme

- The next Champions Forum for firms currently participating in the programme will take place in November 2009. This session will involve an educational visit to an AIDS orphanage or institution.
- Details will be confirmed as soon as the arrangements are finalised.

Artisan Skills Development Programme:

- Representatives from the following cluster member firms will share key lessons of their apprentice programmes at a workshop on 5 October 2009:
 1. Toyota South Africa
 2. Smiths Manufacturing
 3. Ramsay Engineering.
- Workshop participants will explore opportunities to address the shortage of skilled artisans in the regional automotive industry.

Procurement forum meeting

- The next DAC procurement forum meeting will focus on opportunities and challenges associated with preferential procurement.
- A document detailing procurement cost reduction opportunities successfully implemented at DAC firms is to be compiled by facilitators and circulated to member firms. These savings range from R60,000 to R2 million per annum.
- For more information please contact Thabani Shale (thabani@bmanalysts.com).

Joint Supplier Auditing and Development (JSAD) Programme

- The next development session for suppliers to Federal-Mogul Friction Products, Smiths Manufacturing, Feltex and Ramsay Engineering will focus on operating an effective dojo.
- A training session on Aunde's Management Systems for suppliers to Aunde South Africa, Kaymac Structural Foam, GUD Filters and Hesto Harnesses.
For more information on these session please contact Jan Smuts (jan@bmanalysts.com).

Energy Efficiency Network

- The final Energy Efficiency Network session for 2009 will take place on Wednesday, 28 October 2009.
- For more information on the above please contact Aurelia Govender (email aurelia@bmanalysts.com).

HR Forum

- The next DAC HR Forum will take place on 20 October 2009 and the guest speaker will be Stuart Forbes.
- For more information on this session please contact Aurelia Govender (aurelia@bmanalysts.com).

Market Access Workshop - Accessing the African Auto Market

- A workshop aimed at capacitating DAC members to access market opportunities in Africa is scheduled for 13 October 2009.
- A strong focus will be placed on understanding and extracting lessons from the successful experiences of other DAC members in this field.
- 'Accessing the African Auto Market' guest speakers will include:
 - Chris Hillier (Federal-Mogul Corporation)
 - Stuart McMillan (GUD Filters)
 - Andrew Velleman (Toyota Tsusho Africa)
 - Donny Pethan (TIKZN)
 - Praline Ross (TIKZN).
- For more information on this workshop please contact Aurelia Govender (aurelia@bmanalysts.com).

South African Automotive Week

- The South African Automotive Week (SAAW) will take place from 7 to 10 October 2009 in Port Elizabeth.
- The DAC, in partnership with Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN), the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development (KZN DED) and Durban Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA) will have its own provincial pavilion.
- Five DAC members will be exhibiting at the provincial pavilion. Participating firms will Ramsay Engineering, Kaymac Structural Foam, I&J Component Manufacturers, Promo Bag Manufacturers, and Autostick.

DAC Resource Centre and News updates

For a full list of all the items currently in the Resource Centre please contact dac@bmanalysts.com. Regular news updates from Africa, Europe, North America and Australia on the automotive sector are available at www.bmanalysts.com.