

Company Profile

# Bigen Africa



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## 1. Background

In 1971 the BIGEN AFRICA Group, with its origins firmly in the civil consulting engineering profession, commenced operations in South Africa. Building on its inception, BIGEN AFRICA has evolved into a leading multi-disciplinary practice offering engineering, management and project finance solutions to a broad range of clients in both the public and private sector.

## 2. Professional Services rendered

The group continually strives to implement and maintain world-class best practice in providing comprehensive solutions to its clients. To achieve this, BIGEN AFRICA provides these solutions through three divisions, known within the group as “Centres of Excellence”, namely:

### Engineering Services Centre of Excellence

- Agricultural services
- Construction supervision and monitoring services
- Electrical services
- Municipal and development services
- Road and transportation services
- Water services

### Management Services Centre of Excellence

- Infrastructure Management
- Institutional Management
- Integrated Resource Management
- Programme Management

### Project Finance Centre of Excellence

- Arranging of finance
- Bankable feasibility studies
- Financial and project modelling
- Project sponsoring
- Project structuring
- Transaction advisory services

## 3. Management

The management of the company is vested in a core of competent business people who manage the risk appetite of the business. 31% of the companies' issued shares is held by black professionals who actively participate in the management of the group.

#### 4. Areas of Expertise

A list of the disciplines in which BIGEN AFRICA has undertaken projects in the past 30 years, as well as the value of the work undertaken, is listed hereafter:

Rural Water Supply	=	R 1 370 million
Bulk Water Supply	=	R 957 million
Water Purification Works	=	R 448 million
Pump Stations	=	R 115 million
Dams & Canals	=	R 122 million
Outfall Sewers	=	R 108 million
Sewage Works	=	R 344 million
Project Management	=	R 4 006 million
Municipal Services	=	R 2 560 million
Structures	=	R 1 933 million
Irrigation	=	R 312 million
Institutional & Social Development	=	R 287 million
Institutional Management	=	R 227 million
Road Works	=	R 545 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>R13 334 million</b>

#### 5. Socio-Economic Development Policy

BIGEN AFRICA's commitment to social transformation is encapsulated in a comprehensive Socio-Economic Development Policy. This policy describes the five pillars of the group's approach to transformation:

- Ownership and Management
- Employment Equity, training and development
- Joint Ventures
- Corporate Social Investment
- Affirmative Procurement

#### 6. Presence / Exposure in Africa

BIGEN AFRICA operates from 10 offices within South Africa as well as offices in, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Nigeria. All work outside the boundaries of South Africa is undertaken by BIGEN AFRICA Offshore Holdings.

## **7. Clients**

Among BIGEN AFRICA's list of South African reputable clients are :

- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF),
- Magalies Water Board (which supplies over 1.5 million South African consumers),
- Rand Water Board (which supplies over 10 million South African consumers);
- Bloem Water Board (which supplies just less than 1 million South African consumers); and
- Local Authorities such as Madibeng Local Municipality, Moretele Local Municipality, Rustenburg Local Municipality, Tshwane Metro, Joburg Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro.
- Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)

## **8. Human Resources**

The Group employs nearly 300 permanent staff members. This number is made up out of engineers, project managers, technicians, CAD operators, site staff, financial and administrative personnel, institutional and social developers and other support personnel.

## **9. Facilities and Quality Assurance**

The company has state-of-the-art equipment and software that permit fast and efficient compilation and provisioning of all information and procedures necessary in producing designs and documentation. These include the latest edition of AutoCAD computer aided drafting packages, as well as additional software such as Surfmate (Digital Terrain Modelling), Watermate (Pipe network analyses), Pipemate (Sewer network analyses) and Roadmate (Horizontal and vertical alignment of township roads)

BIGEN AFRICA has been registered to ISO 9001:2000 and is committed to the principles of quality assurance and value in respect of all of its products and services.

## **10. Professional Affiliations**

BIGEN AFRICA and/or professionals in its employ are affiliated to the following associations, institutions or organisations:

- Black Management Forum
- Engineering Council of South Africa
- Institution of Municipal Engineers of Southern Africa
- Institute of Waste Management of South Africa

- National Home Builders Registration Council
- Project Management Institute (SA)
- Project Management Institute (USA)
- South Africa Institution of Civil Engineering
- South African Association of Consulting Engineers
- Southern African Institute for Steel Construction
- Water Institute of South Africa

## 11. Achievements

**1993** BIGEN AFRICA became the first firm of consulting engineers to be awarded a silver medal for outstanding productivity in the nationwide competition of the South African National Productivity Institute (NPI).

**1994** During the Construction Industry Productivity and Quality awards ceremony on 16 March 1994, BIGEN AFRICA received an emerald award, once again being the first consultancy to receive such a prestigious award.

**1997** The South African Railway Corporation (SARC) awarded their "Golden Rail" award for excellence to BIGEN AFRICA Projects Management for their handling of a large housing relocation programme. This was the first time ever that a consulting engineering firm has received such an award from SARC.

**2000** BIGEN AFRICA was awarded another first. BIGEN AFRICA received the PMR Golden Arrow Award for The Highest Rated Civil Engineering Consultant Overall. The reward was the result of extensive research undertaken by Professional Management Review in the civil engineering industry by senior decision makers in the engineering, roads, planning and technical divisions of local and provincial government departments. BIGEN AFRICA was also awarded Gold Stars for :

- Co-ordination with all relevant parties (e.g. client, environmental groups, etc)
- Project management skills
- Professionalism and expertise of staff
- Ability to adapt to client change request/s
- Safety record
- Timeous completion of contracts
- Environmental management
- Client relationship during the actual construction period

- Completion of contracts to customer satisfaction.

**2001** At the SAICE Pretoria branch (South African Institution of Civil Engineering) regional award ceremony on 21 June 2001, BIGEN AFRICA Consulting Engineers was awarded the SAICE Technical Excellence Award for the “Rehabilitation of Sewer Reticulation in Atteridgeville” project.

The City of Tshwane appointed BIGEN AFRICA Consulting Engineers for the design and implementation of the sewer reticulation, and Trenchless Technologies cc for the implementation of the trenchless construction process. Through this revolutionary process the City of Tshwane saved 10% - 20% on the construction cost and was able to rehabilitate and upgrade sewers with no inconvenience and interruptions to the Atteridgeville community.

**2001** BIGEN AFRICA was presented with the Gauteng Exporter of the Year Award in the Services Category.

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has identified the export sector as being a vital engine of growth in the province and launched the Gauteng Exporter of the Year Award as the most visible aspect of the campaign.

The Award recognises the achievements of companies that have succeeded in world markets through innovation, quality products and services and creative marketing, and in so doing have created employment and developed the skills of their staff.

**2002** In March 2002 the Institute of Management Consultants of Southern Africa nominated the Municipal Assistance Programme in the Ukhahlamba District Municipality as Project of the Year. BIGEN AFRICA were the project consultants on this winning project.

**2002** BIGEN AFRICA received a honorary certificate of commendation for the Best Housing Project : Project - linked at the second National Housing Awards 2002. The Kaalfontein Focus Project Development for which the award was received is one of the first focus area projects identified and funded by the Gauteng Housing Board and comprises 4938 stands in the low and medium income category.

**2002** BIGEN AFRICA received the BHPBilliton Certificate of Recognition for outstanding services rendered on the Mozal Smelter Project

**2003** BIGEN AFRICA's entry on behalf of its client, the Joint Development Forum, shared the laurel in the "Visionary Client of the Year" category at the SAACE Excellence awards.

The establishment of the Joint Development Forum ("JDF"), during 2002, between the Sekhukhune District Municipality and its five local municipalities, together with various mining companies in the Eastern Limb Mining Area illustrates that co-operative governance, in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa can be successfully implemented, not only between the various spheres of government and organs of state, but also between the various spheres of government and the private sector.

**2003 - 2006** As a result of its contribution to the growth of the economy and job creation, BIGEN AFRICA was nominated as one of South Africa's top 300 Companies.

**2004 & 2005** At the Sustainable Growth Awards BIGEN AFRICA was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the category 3-year Sustainable growth – Private companies, in 2004 and came first in the same category in 2005 after BMW Financial Service (SA).

**2005** BIGEN AFRICA is honoured to be the highest rated large consulting engineering firm in a survey by Professional Management Review (PMR). PMR has conducted a survey assessing consulting engineers to the public sector in South Africa as rated by central and provincial government, municipalities, SOE's and parastatals.

The respondents rated consulting engineers overall and across a range of 10 attributes namely:

- Project management skill,
- Coordination with all the relevant parties,
- Professionalism and expertise of staff,
- Innovative problem solving techniques,
- Ability to adapt to client requests for changes,
- Safety record,
- Environmental management,

- Quality Assurance,
- Value for money,
- Transformation.

The survey was split into the following categories: combined (across all categories), water and sanitation, transportation and roads as well as public structures. BIGEN AFRICA received the highest rating in the combined category and was positioned in third place for the water and sanitation category, both in the large firm division.

**2001 - 2005** BIGEN AFRICA was presented with a Commendation for Business Excellence by the South African Association of Consulting Engineers in 2001, 2002 and 2005. In 2003 and 2004 BIGEN AFRICA received the award in the same category making it the first time that a Consulting Engineering firm has received this honour for the fifth consecutive year. The award has particular significance to BIGEN AFRICA, as it provides the confirmation that we continue to provide business solutions for our clients.

The evaluation for this prestigious award was performed by an independent panel of judges and was based on the following criteria:

- overall management and leadership of the firm;
- technical excellence and innovation;
- financial integrity and performance;
- mobilisation and optimisation of human resources;
- marketing and image of the firm;
- social impact; and
- the extent to which the firm represents and upholds world-class industry standards.

## 12. Conclusion

BIGEN AFRICA is focussed on providing comprehensive solutions to its clients, a focus that is encapsulated in the corporate slogan: **Engineering Solutions for Africa!**