



BUSINESS NEWS



WHILE A FAIR AMOUNT OF INVESTMENT IS BEING MADE BY VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO UPGRADE THE COUNTRY'S RAIL NETWORKS, THE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES IS STILL LARGELY RELIANT ON ROAD TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT AS A VEHICLE for Growth in SA Economy

After decades of underinvestment in maintenance and development, South Africa is in the process of revitalising its transport networks. While a fair amount of investment is being made by various stakeholders to upgrade the country's rail networks, the transportation of goods and services is still largely reliant on road transport – and this bodes a massive opportunity for FMCG logistical and transport companies, suggests Nicholas de

Canha, CEO of Imperial Fleet Management. "However, additional imposed costs, like increases in fuel prices and E-toll, can weigh heavily on any company running their own fleet. I expect that we will see a lot more of these logistics and transport companies look to optimise their fleet operations." In recognition of the future growth opportunities for South Africa's Transport sectors and with an aim to increase its commitment and investment in the South

African economy, last month Hyundai Automotive South Africa opened a semi knock-down commercial vehicle assembly plant on the East Rand of Gauteng. Stanley Anderson, Marketing Manager of Hyundai Automotive SA, said: "The SKD assembly was driven by a long-term strategy to grow Hyundai's share in the South African commercial vehicle market, to be more competitive and to increase Hyundai's investment in the country's economy and also ensure that we are able to meet the logistics and transport growth trajectory."

Local Company Drives Volkswagen Research Facility

Local fan and ventilation manufacturer, MechCaL has taken on the challenge of building what could be the largest Vane Axial Flow fan currently in production for Volkswagen in Germany. The fan in question is a Vane Axial Flow fan spanning eight metres in diameter, destined for Germany, to be installed in Volkswagen's acoustic research wind tunnel. In its final application the fan will be installed in the wind tunnel for testing of full scale motor vehicles. The fan blades will be manufactured using Carbon Composite – a lightweight material which is among the composite range of materials that

feature predominantly in MechCaL's highly innovative patented fan designs. "MechCaL has invested in a new clean room for the prepreg manufacturing which is climate controlled and pressurised to ensure that no contaminants find their way into the layup of the carbon structure," says Ratner. Added to this, because of the size of the parts such as the main blade spar, a new high temperature oven was also purchased to enable the full span of the blade spar to be heated evenly. Ratner adds that additional Jig tables were also specially designed and installed to ensure that the structure



TOP STORY

would be consistent in terms of the bonded structure tolerances. A total of 20 blades will be manufactured at MechCaL's manufacturing facility in Pretoria – 18 to be installed in the VW Acoustic Wind Tunnel with two blades being kept spare. Visit www.mechcal.co.za for more information. **A**