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African Utility Week: A showcase for Africa’s energy, power and water industries

If Africa is to thrive long-term, then the development of infrastructure across the continent – in major sectors such as power and water – must be a top priority.

South Africa is already taking huge steps to modernise its own energy infrastructure, with a roll out of new generation capacity, while increased international interest is paving the way for new projects across the rest of the continent.

These range from flagship power and water developments such as the multi-billion dollar Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam to a roster of new solar, wind and clean energy projects.

Recent water shortages in parts of South Africa also underscore the need for new and sustained investment in this sector, even in more developed areas.

Major players from across these strategic industries will gather in Cape Town in May for the latest run out of African Utility Week.

Long established in the diary, it has grown over the last 17 years to be one of the main venues for the entire power, energy and water value chain.

A showcase for new technologies and opportunities, last year’s event attracted around 7,500 attendees over three days from a staggering 91 countries.

This year, the forum will once again showcase the latest technologies and services across the energy sector: in generation (fossil fuels, off grid, nuclear and renewables), transmission and distribution (including metering) and new technologies (storage, mini grids, micro grids, IOT and ICT systems).

The combined exhibition and conference provides a platform for all within the power and energy industries and the water sector to come together to do business and discuss issues facing Africa in 2018.

As well as leading technology providers, investors and the private sector, the



week brings together African utility, municipality and commercial decision makers all under one roof.

The event also comes at a time of unprecedented change within the sector, given the diverse range of energy alternatives now being rolled out across Africa and elsewhere.

As well as traditional thermal and hydro power, and even back-up gensets, the region is keen to adopt new and renewable technology, not only to bolster self-sufficiency and meet clean energy targets, but also to stimulate access to remote populations.

With heightened international interest in Africa generally, but with many challenges still to overcome, these are exciting times for all engaged in the utilities sector.

African Utility Week, 15-17 May, Cape Town; www.african-utility-week.com