

# Bentley Systems sponsors important new piping course

In December *Metrobuild* attended the launch of the new Advance Draughting course at the African Academy in Boksburg. The course is generously sponsored by Bentley's international education arm, Be Careers Network, and has been designed jointly by the African Academy and Bentley Systems South Africa.



Peter Blake – Director, Project Delivery Group for Hatch Africa.  
Adrian Young – Director of African Academy; Energy Projects Director for Hatch Africa. Kubera Naidoo – Managing Director for African Academy. Scott Lofgren – Global Director, BE Careers Network for Bentley

The African Academy, in collaboration with Bentley Systems, developed this NQF5 piping computer aided design course which will be launched in January 2010. "Without the continuing support of key partners and donors such as Bentley Systems it would not be possible to extend the engineering course offerings. The development of an NQF5 engineering discipline computer aided programme such as this requires an investment of between R1 and R1,5 million to develop the material and programme," said Adrian Young, Director of African Academy in his address. The Advanced Draughting course assists with standardisation across the piping industry and lays the foundation for advancing students' careers. The course provides full and part-time students with a national higher certificate in piping draughting. This certificate enables students to pursue a career in piping draughting and design, piping fabrication and design or piping engineering. The course has been specially developed to assist with standardisation across the piping industry and lay the foundation for students to begin or advance their careers in piping engineering.

The curriculum includes essential elements of piping design such as:

- Piping theory
- Diagrams, layouts, and instrumentation
- Process plant layout and piping design
- Piping arrangement drawings, section, and elevations
- Standard piping details
- Piping systems
- Piping isometrics
- 3D modelling of piping systems
- Work integrated learning

"The demand for engineers, despite the recent worldwide economic crisis, continues to exceed the supply. This makes adding Advance Draughting to our course curriculum for 2010 so much more relevant and essential," said Kubera Naidoo, Managing Director of the African Academy. "Students embarking on this journey towards a career in engineering will not only increase the local talent from which organisations can draw, but will also improve the competitive atmosphere of the South African economy and their own lives by entering into meaningful careers." Scott Lofgren, Global Director of Be Careers Network, stated that "the development of this new piping course for the 2010 school year demonstrates the way in which businesses and academia can work together to craft practical and skill-building courses. Bentley, through Be Careers Network, is doing its part to train and develop the next generation of engineers by, among other things, exposing them to software used by leading architects, engineers, constructors, and geospatial professionals around the world."

Lofgren further added that, "the creation of Advanced Draughting for appropriately skilled professionals will increase the talent pool and create additional jobs within the architectural and engineering professions in South Africa. Our participation with the African Academy to further enhance its programmes, continues our commitment to sustaining the infrastructure professions." ■

*Bentley is the global leader providing architects, engineers, constructors, and owner-operators with comprehensive software solutions for sustaining infrastructure. Founded in 1984, Bentley, with more than 2 700 colleagues and offices in over 45 countries, achieved the milestone of \$500 million in revenues in 2008 and has since 1995 invested more than \$1 billion in research, development, and acquisitions. Many major projects in South Africa are built using Bentley systems.*

*The African Academy was established in 1994 to address the critical need for well-trained and skilled draughts persons and to contribute towards reducing unemployment in South Africa. The Academy is recognised as one of Africa's leading draughting education and training institutions and has proven its worth in assisting industries to raise quality and productivity levels by producing graduates of the highest calibre. The Academy prides itself on its excellent pass rates and consistently places over 95% of its students in employment.*