



Inaugural show meets the needs of a burgeoning industry

In an industry which has to date seemed largely fragmented, the occupational safety and health market in South Africa is about to undergo some drastic changes. Increasing legislation, formalisation of the industry and a growing interest in developing formal career paths for occupational safety and health practitioners – are just some of the aspects impacting organisations today.

With this in mind, UBM Montgomery, organisers of the inaugural OSH Expo Africa and the Facilities Show Africa 2011, are pleased to announce the successful launch of both these brand new shows tailored for the African market; which took place at Gallagher Convention Centre during the first week of September 2011.

The demand for a new event, which addresses industry challenges, was clearly evident in the number of visitors who turned up for this three-day event. OSH Expo Africa and the co-located Facilities Show Africa, welcomed approximately 2 188 visitors. Leveraging the synergies

between the security, facilities management and health and safety sectors, OSH Expo Africa and the Facilities Show Africa were co-located with Africa's premier security event, IFSEC South Africa 2011, which welcomed an additional 6 214 visitors.

"While the OSH Expo Africa and the Facilities Show Africa are still in their infancy, we were encouraged by the overwhelming interest demonstrated by a wide variety of professionals involved in these two industries," says **Ross Cullingworth**, director of sales and marketing at Montgomery Africa.

"We look forward to growing and developing these shows even further and working closely with some of the leading names in Africa and abroad to meet the demands of this growing sector," he added.

Although a brand new event, aimed specifically at the African occupational safety and health industry, OSH Expo Africa attracted the attention of a large international contingent. The world leader in health and safety solutions, Ansell, as well as NEBOSH, a provider of globally recognised qualifications – joined the OSH Expo Africa – not only as exhibitors, but as the show's two major sponsors as well. Some of the leading names in the local industry exhibited their latest innovations at the show, including NOSA, Bramhope Investments and Kimberly-Clark.

With education being another key component at the show, the OSH Expo Africa delivered a series of informative workshops. LexisNexis Compliance presented a series of seminars, including the Mine and Occupational Health and Safety Seminar; NOSA delivered a presentation about the Professional Recognition of HSE Practitioners; and the Institute for Working at Heights delivered a number of interactive workshops which outlined the legal requirements for employers.

On the Facilities Show side, **Lorraine Jenks**, founder and owner of Hotelstuff and Greenstuff, delivered an entertaining, yet eye-opening talk on Green Facilities Management, and **Guy Oldenkotte**, from African Facilities Management Online, had visitors thinking twice about the remuneration packages currently being offered to facilities managers. **Steve Simmonds**, executive head: SHERQ Products and Services presented a fascinating discussion, relevant to both facilities managers and OSH experts about determining risk appetite.

"Changing legislation which places more responsibility on organisations to protect the health and wellbeing of their staff and growing demand for occupational health and safety qualifications in Africa were just some of the major catalysts for the launching of two brand new expos," says Mr Cullingworth. "With a growing demand for OSH qualifications in Africa, the need for a show like this was clearly evident," he added. "We believe there is also more focus on the African region from abroad and as increasing legal requirements and workplace training come into play in the near future, compliance will be critical."

The goal of this event was to provide the local OSH community and facilities managers with the latest trends and developments in the industry and to equip private and government sectors with the information and insights that will help them make informed and intelligent decisions.

"In this regard, OSH Expo Africa and Facilities Show Africa in future will provide both professionals in the field and key business decision makers with access to the tools to tackle compliance issues, demystifying the process and helping them implement changes effectively," concluded Mr Cullingworth. ■