

TRAINING BOOST FOR COATINGS INDUSTRY

After many delays thwarted the South African Paint Manufacturing Association's (SAPMA's) plans to build its own on-site training centre for its training arm, the South African Paint Industry Training Institute (SAPITI), in Bedfordview, Jack's Paint has thrown its weight behind the training mission.

The company has agreed to let SAPITI share the facilities at Jack's Paint's Training Academy in Cleveland, Johannesburg, hoping to increase training and boost skills levels in the coatings industry. All 75 retail outlets of Jack's Paint across South Africa are SAPMA members.

"The Jack's Paint lecture room plus its laboratory completely meet SAPITI's requirements and the gesture to make the facilities available for the coatings industry training is even more significant in that it means that the allocated government funding for SAPITI training equipment and accessories can now finally be accessed," Deryck Spence, executive director of SAPMA, states.

SAPMA was advised late last year that the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) had approved a discretionary grant to SAPMA for the operational requirements of the training centre, including all high-technology equipment and studios to facilitate interactive video conferencing tuition in multifaceted coatings technology.



High-technology equipment will be installed for quality training.

CHIETA will also fund specialised laboratory equipment as well as equipment for practical training, extensive tuition material, furniture, fittings, office equipment, computerised student data bases and an electronic assessment question bank.

According to Spence, all this equipment will be installed at the Jack's Paint Training Academy at 9 Drosty Street in Cleveland. "We hope to start training there as soon as possible," he adds.

Gerhard Waldauer, managing director of Jack's Paint, comments: "We are very proud of our industry-leading training academy, and the synergy shared by both SAPMA and Jack's Paint focusses on product and application training. So the opportunity to share the facility will provide benefits to the whole industry through coatings skills development."

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