



# Groundbreaking tissue-making investment breaks ground

Little did Premier Paper know when it established the first-ever paper machine manufacturing facility in South Africa in 1920, that the same site, then making predominantly ticker tape, would be part of the home to the largest tissue production Group in sub-Saharan Africa just under a century later.



Located 30km south of Johannesburg, Kliprivier site has reached yet another milestone in its 96-year history. "The Twinsaver Group's R500 million installation of PM5 will be a paradigm shift' for the Group in terms of safety, environment, quality, energy efficiency, innovation and technology," said Anthony Hulme, General Manager for the Inland Operations.

On Friday 7 October, seated in what is to become the stock preparation plant of PM5, key stakeholders, employees, project partners and invited guests were witness to 'groundbreaking' sod-turning ceremony. Construction of new facilities and installation of the new tissue-manufacturing machine has now commenced, with completion planned for November 2017. It will enable an incremental annual output of more than 27,000 tonnes.

In addition to Kliprivier PM5, Twinsaver has committed to the installation of an R80 million two-ply converting line at its Bellville factory in the Western Cape. The PCMC Forte machine was commissioned and officially opened in September 2016, will double production capacity and create additional employment across the tissue value chain.

Visibly proud of the Twinsaver's achievements, Garth Towell, Group CEO, said, "The PM5 investment will take our installed tissue-making capacity to over 80,000 tonnes – the largest on the African continent! This is both exciting and inspiring for the team, the Group, Ekurhuleni and indeed South Africa."



**LEFT** Graphic representation of the PM5 to be installed at Twinsaver's Kliprivier plant.

**ABOVE** Hard hats and shovels added a clever touch to the ground-breaking event.

**BELOW RIGHT** Executive Mayor Cnr Mzwandile Masina delivers keynote address.



With the manufacturing industry contributing 14% of the country's Gross Domestic Product, it is a key economic driver, significant employer, trade player and investment generator. "It is also cited as one of the country's top three multiplier growth sectors," said Towell. These investments are consistent with the National Development Plan 2030 vision of diversification, employment creation and domestic growth, he noted.

Executive Mayor of Ekurhuleni Cnr Mzwandile Masina promoted the city as "a region that is fast becoming the preferred destination for investment, staying, working and playing". He congratulated Twinsaver for its decision to invest here, noting that it is both a vote of confidence and big endorsement of the municipality's programme to attract investment.

In the context of the city's mining roots and the in-migration of people seeking greener pastures, Cnr Masina said, "This trend has continued over the years as Ekurhuleni migrated from mining to becoming the manufacturing capital of the southern hemisphere."

The municipality has founded various initiatives including 'City Meets Business' - a monthly information sharing forum, Township Enterprise Hubs, the Ekurhuleni Investment Centre in Kempton Park which serves as a one-stop point to fast-track investment and development applications, as well as the Aerotropolis which has "ignited a new wave of investments in and around the airport catchment area".

The investment centre has registered 12 large-scale projects collectively "valued at billions of rands" and which have the potential to address the unemployment challenges facing the city.

Cnr Masina noted that the population has rocketed from two million to three million in 15 years. "A total of 65% of our people are below the age of 34, and although this distribution could be an advantage due to longevity and youthful exuberance, the reality we face is contrary. Only 15% of the Ekurhuleni population have post-matric qualifications while 4% have no schooling at all." He cited that 3% have primary schooling, 35% at secondary level and paltry 35% possess matric certificates while the region's unemployment rate is 28%.

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# Mill milestones

- 1920**  
Premier Paper establishes first paper machine – PM1 – in South Africa on the Kliprivier site.
- 1929 and 1939**  
Changes in Premier Paper ownership to Northern African Finance Corporation.
- 1948**  
Premier Paper install second paper machine PM2 at Kliprivier. Yankee Cylinder for PM2 made its way by sea from the UK to Cape Town and then up to Johannesburg.
- 1980**  
Nampak Ltd acquire 51% stake in Premier Paper Mills.
- 1983**  
Nampak Ltd acquires 100% stake Premier Paper Mills.
- 1991**  
PM3 tissue machine commissioned.
- 1993**  
PM1 and PM2 decommissioned.
- 1995**  
Nampak Tissue and Paper divisions merged.
- 2000**  
Sancell Diaper Factory established on site.
- 2010**  
PM3 Tissue Machine upgrade to virgin fibre stock preparation plant and crescent former technology.
- 2015**  
Nampak Tissue acquired by Ethos Private Equity Group - Twinsaver Group established. Sancell business acquired by Lodestone and assets relocated.
- 2016**  
Kliprivier celebrates 25 years since PM3 tissue production was commissioned.
- 2017**  
PM5 tissue machine approved and installation commences.

1. Anthony Hulme, General Manager for Inland Operations, at the Kliprivier PM5 event; 2. Executive Mayor of Ekurhuleni Cnr Mzwandile Masina with Twinsaver Group CEO Garth Towell; 3 AND 4. Twinsaver employees celebrate the official startup of the new Twinsaver 2-ply tissue converting line at Bellville; 5. Twinsaver Project Manager, Ewert Kemp (middle) with Twinsaver Group Executives; 6. From left, Mario Fernandez (General Manager Coastal Operations), Shaun Zagnoev (Twinsaver Group Non-Executive Director) and Sean Nieuwenhuys (Operations Director, Twinsaver); 7. Twinsaver's Chevonne Wilkins (Marketing Director), Joanne Gould (Chief Operating Officer) and Evelyn De Wee (Human Resources Director) at the PM5 ground-breaking event



Speaking at the Bellville unveiling in August, Towell, said, “A key element of our strategic plan is enhancing manufacturing capability and productivity in creating sustainable value for the business’ stakeholders. By investing in the best manufacturing technologies available and up-skilling our employees, we are entrenching our position as the leading tissue producer in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.”

According to Towell, sub-Saharan Africa’s manufacturing sector, which brought in over \$157 billion in 2014 (equivalent to 45% of SA’s GDP in the same year), has doubled production over the past 10 years. “What this shows is the immense potential for the region to become a strategic manufacturing hub and modern manufacturing technologies and the advancement of skills are crucial to realising this potential.”

“Through our continued investments, we look forward to sustaining our number one sector position and expanding our footprint across other African markets.”

## Talking technical

Leading contractor Toscotec, along with Arup, will oversee the turnkey delivery of the new PM5, which will comprise stock preparation systems for virgin pulp, a tissue machine encompassing the latest dry crepe tissue technology, as well as plant auxiliaries, electrification and control systems.

The new PM5 will be capable of operating speeds of up to 1800 m/min, producing tissue rolls of appropriate strength, bulk and softness – key consumer attributes – and at the most efficient levels of utility consumption.

“The greenfield project will be focused on energy savings and low emission concepts with a great attention to the environmental and sustainability issues as well as to the impact on the site,” explains Davide Mainardi, Sales and Customer Care Director for Toscotec.

The energy efficiencies (versus current operations) are between 15-20%. “This is significant given South Africa’s current utility struggles,” noted Hulme.

According to Hulme, PM5 will deliver optimum flexibility by producing tissue for conversion into toilet rolls, facial tissue and industrial wipes off the same line.

## Save the date – November 2017

In his concluding remarks, Towell issued a call to action to Operations Director Sean Nieuwenhuys, Kliprivier GM Tony Hulme, Project Manager Peter Hartley and the Kliprivier team: “Maintain safety standards at all times - zero injuries. The project must be completed within budget and on-time. Start-up will be November 2017.”

Towell added that he expects continuous operations of PM3 through this project and the achievement of targets - no excuses.”



# Now you know...

Ticker tape was the earliest digital electronic communications medium, transmitting stock price information over telegraphlines, in use between around 1870 through 1970.

It consisted of a paper strip that ran through a machine called a stock ticker, which printed abbreviated company names as alphabetic symbols followed by numeric stock transaction price and volume information. The term “ticker” came from the sound made by the machine as it printed.

Paper ticker tape became obsolete in the 1960s, as television and computers were increasingly used to transmit financial information. The concept of the stock ticker lives on, however, in the scrolling electronic tickers seen on brokerage walls and on financial television networks.

Source: Wikipedia.com

## About Toscotec

Toscotec, established in 1948, is based in Lucca, Italy and has a presence in China and the USA. It labels itself as a turnkey technology supplier to the global paper industry, offering a complete suite of solutions for the tissue, paper and board manufacture, as well as maintenance services for rolls and cylinders. Since 2013 Toscotec has focused its efforts in tissue machines sales.