

# Chamber of Eng Tech News, May 2023

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## **No1. Editor's Note.**

*In the few years we have sent short News notices regularly to members by E Mail instead of a newsletter. Thus you have received COET latest news quite often by E mail instead of a Newsletter that appears only occasionally..*

*According to our latest website back-office stats, we sent more than 6000 emails to our members last year. As this is a bit heavy it was decided that the COET News, if short, will be sent out by E Mail, but longer News will only be put on the Website. E Mail notifications of these longer News items will however still be sent to members who will have to download them from the Website.*

***Please visit our Website at least monthly for News!!***

***[www.engineeringchamber.mirrorz.com](http://www.engineeringchamber.mirrorz.com)***

*I encourage all members, sections and interest groups to send your news articles, comments, any items of interest or ideas to [engineer@netactive.co.za](mailto:engineer@netactive.co.za).*

*Best wishes*

*Editor Viv Nel*

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## **No. 2. Membership Fees Reduced!!**

**(Our gift to you)!**

**COET annual membership fees for 2023 have been retained as R475 which is less than the 2021 fee of R500.**

This is done to assist members and new members in these difficult times. As far as we know COET is the only Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) recognised Voluntary Association that has decreased fees in the last few years. As far as we can ascertain it has the lowest ECSA recognised VA membership fees.

***ECSA registered COET members get an ECSA discounted year fee.***

The discount is more than the COET fee, so a COET member then gets both ECSA and COET membership for less than the price of the normal ECSA fee!! And some change!! See below!!

So it pays to belong to COET!!

**Application forms can be requested from COET at E Mail [engineer@netactive.co.za](mailto:engineer@netactive.co.za).**

**Fees for 2023 were due in January 2023. To those who have not yet paid please do so!!**

*Note T 's & C's apply.*

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*“Gambling, beer and football filled the horizons of their minds.”*

**George Orwell**

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## **No. 3. Letter from ECSA.**

**ECSA: Changes to Voluntary Association Discount for the 2023/2024 Financial Year End**

The above subject matter has reference.

The **Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)** hereby announces the changes to the VA discount for the 2023/2024 financial year. Following the internal cost review that was carried out in FY22/23, the cost of the VA discount was analyzed and quantified. Subsequently this has resulted in a reduction of the discount by 5% and the money recouped will be used to fund programs that will unblock our registration pipeline at candidacy level and

assist in the implementation of professionalisation of the Public Sector.

Furthermore, there are a number of initiatives where **ECSA** will partner with the VA's to: attract students, convert candidates and retain professionals. **ECSA** will also be working with SETA's in our sector to provide funding for these programs to meet some of the financial obligations of the targeted candidacy and mentoring programs. Details of these engagements will be discussed in the President's forum as part of the proposed VA engagement framework which will be taking place on the 22nd day of June 2023.

Even though we have reduced the discount for members belonging to VA, however **ECSA** has provided a below CPI increase to the registration fees of 5% and increased the early bird discount which your members will benefit from.

As always, we appreciate your feedback, so please let us know if you have any questions or need any further clarity @ [engineers@ecsa.co.za](mailto:engineers@ecsa.co.za).

**Yours Sincerely,**

Dr. B. Ssamula  
*Chief Executive Officer (CEO)*  
Date: 28 April 2023

Contact [engineers@ecsa.co.za](mailto:engineers@ecsa.co.za) for further clarity

***THUS NEW FEES ARE:***

**No3. ECSA Invoices for Annual Fees: Important Notice For Members.  
(Scroll down)!**

Application and Annual Fees  
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024  
(Vat included)

Application Fees (VAT included) - see Note 3

1. Candidate Categories - See Note 3:

Within one calendar year from the date of obtaining a qualification recognised for purposes of registration.	Later than one calendar year after the date of obtaining a qualification recognised for purposes of registration.
R956.00	R2 389.00

2. Education Qualification Evaluation - See note 3:

All applicants with foreign educational qualifications are required to have their qualifications evaluated.	R2 389.00
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3. Professional & Registered Categories - See note 3:

For Applicants with uninterrupted registration as a Candidate.	For Applicants not registered in any of the Candidate categories.
R4 772.00	R9 545.00

4. International Register:

Applicable only to persons already registered with ECSA who are applying for registration on the ECSA portions of the International Registers. This is a once-off fee. No annual fees are payable.	R4 772.00
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Annual Fees (VAT included) - see Note 1

Candidates <sup>(4)</sup>		Professional & Registered Categories	
Partial Exemption	No Exemption	Partial Exemption	No Exemption
R1 786.00	R1 985.00	R4 271.00	R4 909.00

Notes:

- (1) Annual fees are payable by all persons registered for as long as they are registered with ECSA, annual fees are raised every year for the period April to March.
- (2) Payment details:
  - a. Persons in foreign countries who are experiencing difficulties making payment by credit card are advised to use the Online Portal to make payment on Sage Pay or Netcash.
  - b. Credit card payments can be made by scanning the secure Sage Pay QR code or by clicking on the Sage Pay Online icon appearing on your invoice.
  - c. Banking details: Standard Bank Eastgate Branch, Branch Code 018505, Account No. 221285938. Swift code SBZAJJ.
  - d. The accepted methods of payment are EFT, Netcash(Sage Pay) or deposit made at any Standard Bank branch into ECSA's bank account. No cash will be accepted at ECSA's Offices.
  - e. For EFT payments, please use the reference number at the bottom of the invoice.
- (3) No Applications will be considered until payment for the full application fee has been received.
- (4) Persons registered in the Candidate category for more than six (6) years pay the same annual fees as persons registered in the Professional category.
- (5) Appeals. When a person wishes to appeal, a fee of R8 400.00 is to be paid by all.
- (6) An Early bird discount is granted to Registered persons if their annual fees for April to March are paid on or before 30 June. The discount is R100 for Candidates and R250 for Professionals, VAT inclusive.
- (7) In addition to the annual fees in arrear, an admin fee of R500 is payable when reinstating a registration within one year of cancellation. After one year of being cancelled persons will need to re-apply for registration.
- (8) Persons who will be residing outside the RSA borders for a year or longer should advise Accounts of their overseas postal address in order for VAT to be removed from their invoice.
- (9) The fee for persons between the ages of 55 and 70 who have been granted the retired dispensation will be R326.00 (VAT inclusive).

Signature 

Date 05-04-2023

***ECSA seldom shows the full fee and the discount with the reduced total on any of their invoices. They show only the bottom-line figure, so recipients are never sure if discount has been allowed or not. Therefore members must check any invoice they receive from ECSA to ensure that the discounted figure is there!***

A copy of your membership letter or a CPD certificate from COET can be used to prove COET membership. CPD certificates for the past year were sent to members (but are not actually required by Candidates). CPD certificates for the current year will only be sent out after April.

***Kindly note that members have to take up fee issues with ECSA direct as we are not allowed to do this on their behalf. (POPI act etc).***

**Contact ECSA direct at [engineer@ecsa.co.za](mailto:engineer@ecsa.co.za)**

tel:	<b>(0861) 225 555</b>
Fax (General):	(011) 622 9295
Fax (Accounts & Call Centre):	(011) 616 1855
Fax (Admin):	(011) 607 9556
Fax (Legal):	(011) 607 9547
E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:engineer@ecsa.co.za">engineer@ecsa.co.za</a>

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*“Politicians are not born; they are excreted.”*

**Marcus Tullius Cicero**

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#### **No 4. News from ECSA.**

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##### **ECSA Recognition.**

As you know COET is recognised by ECSA as a

**Voluntary Association: VA A007 (2018 - 2023)**

**And**

**Licensed Body: LB-034/2023 (2020 – 2023)**

COET is entitled to use the title "ECSA CPD Licensed Body."

ECSA introduced a new set of requirements for CPD course PROVIDERS. These are onerous and at a recent on line meeting with ECSA many Voluntary Associations raised objections to the system.

If the system is not changed it will result in many CPD providers not bothering to apply to do CPD courses. The net result will be that CPD courses will become scarce and expensive which the VA's believe is the last thing ECSA should desire.

*ECSA has under took to look into the matter last year but no progress has been seen to date!*

##### **CPD Audit by ECSA.**

*Recently ECSA conducted an audit of COET as far as CPD courses and other matters are concerned. This took a whole day, mainly on line, as well as many days of paperwork that was submitted to ECSA before the meeting. ECSA states that it takes these audits as a developmental exercise. It was however somewhat bureaucratic and time consuming. Some faults were found and verbally mentioned, but the written report back to COET may take several months as the reports have to be cleared by an ECSA committee that only meets about every 3 months.*

*Other VA's have also been audited with similar results. This audit is going to happen every 3 years.*

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Hi all,

**You need to be aware of this. See Ecsa Board notice 21. In Government Gazette.**

**26 March 2021 Vol 669 No 44333 Identification of Engineering Work.**

1. CBE issued circular that persons will not be permitted to undertake work if not registered.
2. Deadline for compliance is March 2024.
3. Staff in public sector affected as there will be no promotion if not appropriately registered.
4. Secretariat to circulate gazette. See link below!!

Gov Gazette available at [www.gpwonline.co.za](http://www.gpwonline.co.za)

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*“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”*

**Dwight D Eisenhower**

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## **No 5. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificates.**

Your CPD certificate proves your valid membership for the year ending 2023. This entitles you to claim one credit on the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) CPD system (Category 3).

*Please note that CPD only applies to individual ECSA registered members and not Company, Sponsor or unregistered members. Also note that you are still required to gain credits in Categories 1 and 2.*

If you have not received a CPD Certificate, it is probably due to one or more of the following reasons: -

- You are not listed as being registered with ECSA or you have not advised us of your ECSA registration and ECSA number.
- Your membership account is in arrears. Your address has changed.
- Other.

Please contact us by E Mail if you have any enquiries in this regard.

E Mail. [engineer@netactive.co.za](mailto:engineer@netactive.co.za).

**Kindly note that CPD certificates for 2023 will only be issued to paid up members and that these will only be issued after the end of April unless the member has specifically requested so.**

## **No 6. WhatsApp Group.**

Join COET's WhatsApp group (LMI Chat & Discussions). While it is mainly aimed at LMI's, all are welcome. Kindly note that it is not restricted to COET members at this time.

Moderator is Gerrit Smit etc. Follow the instructions on the attachment.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IOpzC7V7t6LCNEKyqSww8W>

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## **No 7. Services Offered By Members.**

*(Adverts for members)*

*Please visit our other Website*

<http://engineersdirectory.co.za/>

*For all details.*

*Wherever possible support your fellow members!*

*If links don't work please type in the text into your internet browser.*

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**No 8. Representation at the SABS.**

1. Mr C Boonzaier (Past Chairperson of COET) as Chairperson of TC 1035. Vehicle Lifts.
  2. Mr C Boonzaier as chairman of Industrial Lift Trucks (Forklifts).
  3. Mr C Boonzaier has accepted position of P Member of TC 1020 Lifting Equipment-Lifting Tackle and Chain Hoists
  4. Mr D Havenga (Chairperson of COET) has accepted position of P Member of TC 96 Mobile Cranes.
  5. Mrs R Ledwaba (Vice Chairperson of COET) has accepted position of P Member of TC 1020 Lifting Equipment-Lifting Tackle and Chain Hoists
  6. Mrs R Ledwaba has accepted position of P member of TC 1035 Vehicle Lifts.
  7. Mr D Havenga has been nominated as p member to replace Mr C Boonzaier TC 1035 Vehicle Lifts.
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**No 9.**

**Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence**

**18-19 May 2023**

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) is hosting an online discussion forum in collaboration with proSET (Professionals in science, engineering and technology) on 'Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence' on 18-19 May 2023. proSET is a sector of the NSTF representing more than 40 [professional societies](#). The NSTF [Sub-Committee of proSET](#) is responsible for the topic and contributes to identifying interesting ideas and speakers.

**Join the online conversation and make your voice heard.**

Click [here](#) to register.

*Attendance and participation in this NSTF Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested.*

**For more information contact NSTF direct. E mail [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za)**

[www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za).

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**No 10.**

**Snippets.**

*The following mini articles, notices and news follow the trend of interesting scientific, engineering developments and general interest items that we have come across. Read and enjoy!*

*Please feel free to contribute by sending your items to share with our members!*

*Ed*



### **# 1.5 hours.**

How much sunlight hitting the Earth's surface is needed to satisfy the world's energy consumption for an entire year!

### **# There is a UN office for Outer Space Affairs!!**

### **# Cell Phones!**

There are about 5-billion active cell phones at the moment out of a global population of 8-billion. That means basically every adult on earth has one.

### **# Vinyl over takes CDS for the first time in 35years.**

Latest report (2022) from the Recording Association of America (RIAA) shows astonishing trends in physical music formats. Revenue grew for the seventh consecutive year (\$15.9Bn) Streaming broke records with subscriptions from 92 million (\$92million). Physical music in the form of Vinyl grew 17% to \$1.2bn which is the sixteenth consecutive year of growth. Vinyl out sold CDs for the first time since 1987!!!

### **# Construction resumes on KZN barrier wall to combat cross-border crime.**

KZN government and Dept . of Public Works is building a wall of concrete New Jersey barriers to stop cross-border crimes like the theft of motor vehicles which end up in Mozambique. The first phase of 8 km will be from the boundary of the Isimangaliso Wetlands Park to the west boundary of the Tembe Elephant Park. The cost some R271 million. The project initially started in 2020 at some R5 million with 156 concrete barrier units.

### **# SA Post Office in sight of its final resting place after being placed under provisional liquidation.**

The SA Post Office's financial situation is essentially beyond redemption. It owes creditors at least R4.4bn. A creditor of the SA Post Office has emerged successful in its high court bid to have the state-owned entity placed under provisional liquidation. (COET no longer uses the Post Office).

### **# Scientists Calculated That About 20 Quadrillion Ants Are Roaming Earth Right Now.**

Scientists, from Julius Maximilians University (JMU) consulted 489 scientific studies discussing the matter, covering all continents, major habitats, and biomes on Earth.

As a result, they finally came up with an approximate answer. According to a paper published in the journal PNAS, our planet harbours about 20 quadrillion ants. That's 20 thousand million millions, or in numerical form, 20,000,000,000,000,000 (20 with 15 zeroes).

Moreover, researchers also estimated the weight of all these ants. Researchers estimated that it is about 12 million tons. Scientists found that the weight of all ants is more than the total mass of all wild



birds and mammals combined (except humans).

### # ~300 million jobs

... is the number of full-time jobs AI could replace, according to a Goldman Sachs report. OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, says that 80% of US workers could see at least some of their tasks taken over by large-language models.

### # **Heart FM debuts AI-generated presenter.**

Jay I, a radio presenter generated by artificial intelligence software, took to the airwaves in South Africa over the Easter weekend. The Western Cape Radio station aired South Africa's first AI generated presenter in the hours of 01h00 to 04h00 on Saturday 8 April 2023. Jay I's intellect, personality and opinions were entirely artificially generated and evolve according to listener's feedback and other inputs. The voice is a representation of several professional voices tuned to deliver a great voice for radio. According to station management, a permanent place in the presenter line-up is not yet on the cards, but it this is not completely off the table.

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*Ed. If we had an AI government the country could be in a better shape than now??!!*

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### **No 11. Unsubscribe Option.**

As a member of COET you should want to receive the E News. If however u do not want to receive the COET E News as an E Mail then you have the option to unsubscribe.

To unsubscribe send an email with "COET unsubscribe newsletter" in the text to [engineer@netactive.co.za](mailto:engineer@netactive.co.za)

### **No 12.**

#### **O. & O. E.**

The Chamber of Engineering Technology (COET), its agents, volunteers, workers and members cannot be held responsible for errors in, amendments to, or any damages whatsoever arising from information published in good faith. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily shared by COET.

### **No. 13. Annual Information Update.**

**We no longer post items. Post only used in special cases. Please get an E Mail address so we can communicate with you.**

**Your E mail, if you have one, does not always work! Please complete & return this form for updates.**

Note that E mail addresses that end in Spooonet, Transnet, Eskom and Gov (Government) are usually blocked at your end.

E Mails to some Consulting firms are also blocked.

Aurecon & ones ending in  
Telkomsa.net included!

You have to fix this at the/your receiving end as we cannot solve this for you.

***We recommend members use private individual E Mail addresses instead of Company addresses.***

**Provide us with your E mail address so we can send our regular News etc to you. Thank you for co-operation.**

**Thanks from E Mail. [engineer@netactive.co.za](mailto:engineer@netactive.co.za)**

**SEE FORM BELOW.**

**SCROLL DOWN!!**

**Form for Individual Members**

Last name		Initials	
First Names			
<b>Your Preferred Postal Address</b>		Postal code	
Alternate or Work Postal address		Postal code	
Name of Employer / Company			
Your or your Companies main field of engineering			
Work Tel (include area codes for all numbers)		Work Fax	
Home Tel		E Mail	
Cell No		Alternate E Mail	
Membership Number			
<b>Engineering Council of SA Registration Number (If applicable)</b>			
ID Number	Birthday, Year, Month, Day		
Race (For statistical purposes only)	Asian (Indian etc) = A Black = B	Coloured = C White = W	

Together We can Achieve more in engineering  
 CoetUpdate2023  
 Visit our Web site <http://engineeringchamber.mirrorz.com>