



Press Release

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Transformative project for renewable energy integration

Henkel South Africa unveils 100% sustainable Alrode plant with solar farm installation

Johannesburg, South Africa – Henkel South Africa has reached a groundbreaking milestone in its sustainability journey with the official launch of its solar farm at its Alrode manufacturing plant. This transformative project ensures that 100% of the plant’s electricity needs during daytime operations are met through renewable energy sources.

The solar farm, which boasts a peak capacity of 1.8 megawatts, is seamlessly integrated into the plant’s energy grid, ensuring uninterrupted and efficient energy use. Beyond its operational benefits, this solar installation exemplifies Henkel’s commitment to tackling global climate challenges while making tangible contributions to South Africa’s national 2050 sustainability goals.

Revolutionizing renewable energy integration

The solar installation is grid-tied, allowing it to adapt to the plant’s energy needs in real time. During the day, all energy requirements are met directly by the solar farm, while at night, the plant leverages electricity from the grid, supplemented by Henkel’s existing renewable energy certifications. This dual approach ensures sustainability without compromising operational continuity.

By reducing reliance on the national grid, the Alrode plant anticipates a 70% reduction in daytime electricity consumption, translating into a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. “Achieving 100% renewable energy sourcing for daytime operations is a proud moment for Henkel South Africa,” said Thelma Mamatlepa, Plant Manager at Henkel South Africa. “This project demonstrates that sustainable operations and economic efficiency can co-exist, making us a model for other industrial players in the country.”

Advancing Henkel's Net-Zero Roadmap

The solar farm forms a key part of Henkel's broader net-zero roadmap. In addition to achieving 100% renewable electricity for daytime operations, Henkel is accelerating efforts to reduce its scope 1 and scope 2 emissions. As part of this "Race towards net-zero," Henkel aims to achieve full electrification of its Alrode plant by 2025/2026, including the installation of an advanced electrical boiler to replace fossil-fuel-based systems. These initiatives reflect Henkel's steadfast commitment to addressing climate change and driving meaningful sustainability progress.

Innovative energy efficiency measures

The solar farm is the centerpiece of a broader energy optimization strategy at the Alrode plant. Over the past year, Henkel has implemented several complementary measures:

- **Optimized boiler systems:** Henkel has overhauled its boiler operations, reducing energy consumption through full servicing, descaling, and the introduction of advanced water treatment technologies.
- **Improved insulation:** By insulating mixers and steam lines, the plant has minimized heat loss, ensuring energy is conserved and efficiently utilized.
- **Smart production scheduling:** High-energy-demand processes have been shifted to daylight hours to maximize the benefits of solar energy.
- **Recycling and water reuse:** Process water is now reused for cleaning and other operational needs, reducing resource consumption.
- **LED lighting upgrades:** Energy-efficient LED lighting is being rolled out across the plant, starting with warehouses and expanding to office spaces.

Collaboration and employee empowerment

The solar project was not only a technical triumph but also a demonstration of Henkel's culture of inclusivity and collaboration. Employees on the shop floor played an integral role in identifying energy-saving opportunities, suggesting changes to processes, and championing sustainability initiatives.

"From optimizing motor operations to developing water-saving strategies, our employees have shown extraordinary ingenuity," said Mamatlepa. "Their input reflects a shared commitment to sustainability and highlights the power of collective action."

Looking ahead: a vision for the future

While the current installation does not include battery storage, Henkel has plans to evaluate future investments in energy storage to further enhance energy independence. Additionally, the plant's energy monitoring systems will be upgraded to allow for real-time tracking and deeper insights into consumption patterns, enabling ongoing optimization.

The Alrode plant's journey is part of Henkel's science-based targets to achieve Scope 2 emissions reductions by 2030. It also aligns with South Africa's broader energy transition, which seeks to balance economic growth with environmental stewardship.

"Henkel's sustainability ambitions extend beyond our own operations," said Mehmet Yilmaz, Director Operations and Projects Henkel Adhesive Technologies in the region Middle East and Africa. "We hope our efforts inspire other organizations to take bold steps toward renewable energy integration and environmental responsibility."

A message to the broader industry

Henkel's Alrode solar project underscores the importance of data-driven decision-making and employee engagement in achieving sustainability targets. The project's success offers valuable lessons for other sectors, particularly in navigating South Africa's energy challenges, including load shedding and rising electricity costs.

"At Henkel, sustainability is not just a target to achieve – it's a responsibility," said Veerabhadra Konakalla, Head of Sustainability, Health and Environment at Henkel Adhesive Technologies in the region Middle East and Africa. "Our solar farm is a testament to what's possible when innovation, investment, and collective determination come together. We are proud to contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future for South Africa."

About Henkel

With its brands, innovations and technologies, Henkel holds leading market positions worldwide in the industrial and consumer businesses. The business unit Adhesive Technologies is the global leader in the market for adhesives, sealants and functional coatings. With Consumer Brands, the company holds leading positions especially in laundry & home care and hair in many markets and categories around the world. The company's three strongest brands are Loctite, Persil and Schwarzkopf. In fiscal 2023, Henkel reported sales of more than 21.5 billion euros and adjusted operating profit of around 2.6 billion euros. Henkel's preferred shares are listed in the German stock index DAX. Sustainability has a long tradition at Henkel, and the company has a clear sustainability strategy with specific targets. Henkel was founded in 1876 and today employs a diverse team of about 48,000 people worldwide – united by a strong corporate culture, shared values and a common purpose: "Pioneers at heart for the good of generations." More information at www.henkel.com

About Henkel South Africa

Henkel in the South Africa was established in 1951 and has since grown with almost 200 employees. In South Africa, Henkel operates one plant for Adhesive Technology products in Johannesburg and three offices in Bedfordview (Johannesburg), Alrode (Johannesburg), and Durban and Henkel in South Africa covers both global business units: Consumer Brands and Adhesive Technologies. In line with the company's focus on innovation and customisation, Henkel South Africa offers locally relevant leading products that cater to the country's specific needs and position Henkel as a key player, particularly with top brands in textured hair care such as Got2b Glued and Consumer Adhesives such as Pritt - the leading glue stick brand with Henkel South Africa being in the top 3 of most Pritt sticks sold globally - as well as customised Adhesive products for the automotive, mining and cementing industry. In 2007, the Henkel South Africa team collaborated with a local NGO to build a center for children and created a space for early learning and development to give back to those in need. Through donations and volunteer work from Henkel employees and Henkel South Africa, 120 children from ages three to five every year now have a place to learn at Tamaho Early Learning & Development Center, Katlehong, Johannesburg. A second building is currently being established that will allow an additional 120 children each year to access a learning environment.

Photo material is available at www.henkel.com/press

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