

CORPORATE FEATURE

Durban company spreading its wings world-wide

Isegen South Africa (Pty) Ltd, a wholly-owned South African manufacturer of food acidulants and raw materials for the plastics industries, with plants at Isipingo and Umgeni in KwaZulu-Natal and at Germiston in Gauteng, has recently shipped its first order to Russia - its 42nd export country.

The order, worth R265,000, is for malic acid manufactured at the Isipingo plant. Malic acid is used in the food industry in the production of beverages, confectionery, sauces, cider, wines and numerous other food products. The company also manufactures raw materials for the resin, paint, adhesives and PVC industries.

Robert Fowlds, MD of Isegen, says the company is currently embarking upon an extensive expansion programme. "We are very happy about undertaking this expansion from Durban. Not only are we close to the Durban harbour for exports, but the city is an excellent business location. The city manager and the departments involved need to be complimented on the very professional manner in which they make Durban an efficient and effective place to do business. In particular, the deputy mayor, Councillor Logie Naidoo, is very supportive of all development in Durban."

Fowlds says the Isipingo plant is the most integrated food acids plant in the world. Butane is received from the adjoining Sapref refinery, and is then converted to maleic anhydride in an oxidation process which also liberates considerable energy that is converted into steam. This steam and the maleic anhydride are processed by the food acids plant on the same site to manufacture a range of food acidulants, of which 70% are exported world-wide.

Isegen utilises in-house technology developed over many years, unrestricted by licence or royalty agreements. The exported food acidulants are manufactured from 100% local content, to which Isegen adds value. This is in line with government's policy of adding value to SA raw materials in the chemical industry which can then be exported.

Angela Fowlds, the company's executive director responsible for the food acidulants business, says: "I am particularly happy with this latest export into a new potentially large market. I am confident of growing this business, as the Isegen food acidulants plant is world class in all aspects, and we are already supplying numerous multinational companies around the world, many of whom have completed plant audits. These include companies making world famous brand-name products, one of which informed us that we were the best food acids company that they had audited. Our quality control and plant systems comply with the best global standards." Isegen employs a unique granulation technology and is the only known company world-wide that has been able to commercialise the granulation of its food acids. Granulation has numerous advantages and results in a product with an even particle size, making it free-flowing and dust-free, and therefore easier to handle.

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New name at Nutritional Foods

The food ingredients division of the former Nutritional Foods, operating from Industria, Johannesburg, has undergone a name change, to Sunspray Food. The company's Klerksdorp factory, which is undergoing an ownership change, retains the name "Nutritional Foods" as this is more appropriate to the nutritional products produced at that site and supplied to feeding schemes and the catering industry.

SA olive oil wins

Willow Creek Estate of the Nuy Valley, Western Cape, has received a "distinction" award in the prestigious L'Orciolo d'Oro olive oil competition held in Gradara, Italy, recently.

This follows silver medal awards for both its Directors' Reserve extra virgin olive oil, and its Lemon-Infused extra virgin olive oil at the Los Angeles County Fair Olive Oils of the World competition, held in May Willow Creek Estate planted its first olive trees in 1999.

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