## Contents

**Message from the CEO of the SABS**  
3

**Message from the chairperson of the adjudication panel**  
4

**Introducing the adjudicators**  
5

**disa South African Design Excellence Award**  
9

**Chairperson’s Award**  
Induction Casting Machine for Platinum Jewellery  
11

**Award winners (in alphabetical order)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Winner</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bean Flex</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattelevator</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EZWaste Pedal operated integrated food preparation area</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EZWaste quick service restaurant in-store refuse bin</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hippo High Voltage Flameproof Slurry Pump</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jembi</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jooste Force Head</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo Seat</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laze-A-Round Swing Chair</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Master: 16 ton amphibious exploration drill</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLOphone</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respisense™ infant breathing monitor</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigidek Hard Tonneau</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherds Gate™</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terra Grader</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The SABS Design Institute promotes design in South Africa through a variety of initiatives. For the past 37 years, one of the major vehicles used to reward design excellence has been the SABS Design Institute Awards, established in 1969. This scheme changed its name to the disa Design Excellence Awards in 2004 with the aim of recognising the achievements of South African product designers, encouraging local product design and manufacture, as well as promoting international competitiveness of local products.

The design arena is changing, both nationally and internationally. In keeping with the emphasis placed on design worldwide, the Design Institute has conceptualised an evolved design award scheme as from 2004.

The objectives of the disa South African Design Excellence Award are:

- To make South African design a national imperative;
- To honour excellent South African design;
- To showcase South Africa as an innovative, industrialised country;
- To promote the capability of South African product designers to benefit local industry and manufacture and to increase inter-national market share; and
- To be a yardstick for local consumers when selecting outstanding products.

Entries are adjudicated on merit and are not in competition with one another.

Categories

- Education, leisure and sports goods and toys, including any range of sporting equipment and accessories, new materials, innovative ideas, and unique applications
- Electronics and Information and communication technology (ICT)
- Home ware and office ware, including domestic appliances and furniture
- Mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, transport, auto-motive, mining and machinery
- Medical and healthcare, including preventive and promotive products
- Urban environment and landscape products, including urban furniture, equipment, tools and more.

Adjudication criteria

- Innovation
- Appearance and tactile aspects
- Cost/value relationship
- Ease of maintenance and installation
- Performance
- Design choices made in materials, manufacture and assembly
- Safety and ergonomics
- Environmental impact

Chairperson’s Award

The Chairperson’s Award is presented annually to the most exceptional entry, based on a majority of votes from the panel of adjudicators.
The Hot Platinum ICON3CS is a compact and integrated casting machine used in platinum jewellery manufacturing. Only slightly larger than a conventional microwave oven, it uses innovative electronics technology to enable it to melt and cast 250g of platinum in less than five minutes. It has a melting range from as little as 20g to 250g, with an onboard cooling system and controlled casting centrifuge. The patented drop and tilt casting mechanism ensures continuous heating of the metal until it leaves the crucible, ensuring consistent casting results every time. The ICON 3CS is also capable of casting gold alloys. A simple menu-driven user interface guides the operator through the casting process. It operates from a standard single-phase 220V power supply.

**Company:** Hot Platinum (Pty) Ltd  
**Designer (internal):** Irshad Khan  
**Designer (external):** Martin Cronje  
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The Bean is an ergonomically shaped recliner seat to trim, tone and tighten abdominal and other muscles. The air-filled seat is pressure sensitive and dynamically moulds and contours around the body, aligning the muscles for safe and effective training. The S-curved upper surface allows for a full pre-stretch and intense contraction of the abdominals. With its spherical base, the body incline can be adjusted to vary exercise resistance. The Bean can be used on its own, but combined with the Flex10, the combination makes for a complete all-in-one home gym.

*Company:* Inventec  
*Designer (internal):* Willie van Straaten  
*Designer (external):* Charles Rohland  
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The Cattelevator is an apparatus used to support large animals like cattle or horses that are unable to stand when injured or sick. It consists of three belts and a frame which can be easily placed underneath and over the animal by letting the animal lie on its side. Only three or four people are necessary to lift an animal of 700 kg and more. By elevating the animal, blood flow is restored to the legs which increases the animal’s recovery time. The frame is manufactured from square tubing and also consists of winches, belts and a 6 mm steel cable.

**Designer (internal):** J J Kleynhans
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The purpose of the EZWaste pedal operated integrated food preparation area is to provide an easy and efficient way to immediately discard waste generated when preparing food. It consists of a tempered glass chopping board which rests on a stainless steel overlay on the work surface. Directly behind the chopping board is an opening that is sealed by two stainless steel trapdoors. The trapdoors are operated with a foot pedal and the rubbish drops into a large polyethylene inner bin when opened. By using the foot pedal, the cook gets rid of rubbish without interrupting the preparation process.

**Company:** EZWaste (Pty) Ltd  
**Designers (internal):** Dr Dewald Lubbe and Cobus du Plessis  
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The EZWaste quick service restaurant refuse bin is an easy way of clearing trays at fast food outlets. A tray is placed on top of the unit with a handle. The handle is then lifted to clear the tray, while retaining loops hold the tray in position, preventing it from falling into the bin. Only one hand is used, compared to other bins where the person clearing the tray has to push back a flap with one hand while trying to hold the tray in place with the other. With the EZWaste a person’s hands do not come into contact with the bin.

**Company:** EZWaste (Pty) Ltd  
**Designers (internal):** Dr Dewald Lubbe and Cobus du Plessis  
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The Hippo High Voltage Submersible is designed and manufactured for pumping high volumes of slurry, acidic fluids or water as required in the mining industry. The primary uses are; dewatering to minimise or prevent flooding and process water, slurry and discard pumping. The high voltage motor’s physical size makes it possible to have pumps with motors in access of 500kW. The flameproof pumps are used in the oil fields and underground in coal mines.

**Company:** Hazleton Pumps (SA) (Pty) Ltd  
**Designers (internal):** Niel Wehmeyer, Mathys Wehmeyer, Johan de Jager & Johnie Walker.  
**Designer (external):** ALSTOM Electrical Machines  
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Jumbo Seat

Category: Urban environment and landscape products, including urban furniture, equipment and tools

This polypropylene stadium seat has the highest back of any dual layered seat shell and fits flush to any surface to prevent theft or vandalism. The seat has ribbed support throughout the seat and the back, giving it almost indestructible strength and stability. The seat is fixed to either a concrete or steel structure through two fixing points. These points are closed with side plugs, which cannot be removed due to a specially designed bush. The seat has a polished surface finish, making it maintenance free.

Company: Khanda Seating (Pty) Ltd
Designers (internal): Sidney Robson, Mark Osborne
Designer (external): Mike Wythe
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Jooste Force Head

Category: Mechanical engineering, electrical power engineering, transport, automotive, mining and machinery

The Jooste Force Head, made from stainless steel and polyurethane has greatly improved the functioning of windmill pumps, when compared to brass tubing force heads made with leather cup washers, which tend to lock when pumping. The advantages of the Jooste Force Head are the absence of friction, longer endurance and ability to withstand exceedingly high pressure. Through the implementation of this force head, one windmill can now deliver water at heights of up to 250m. An o-ring prevents the water from circumventing the packing and an extension on the polyurethane packing closes off any leakage under pressure.

Company: Jooste Cylinder & Pump Co (Pty) Ltd
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The JEMBI is a wireless payphone used for providing public telephone services in under-serviced areas. It is a single unit stand-alone GSM payphone which can be expanded through a unique and proprietary click-on extender to add additional functional modules such as remote displays or a printer. The unit has been designed for maximum viewing angle from a tabletop operation, with a modern hitech appearance whilst maintaining important aspects of the user interface for the intended market segment.
The Laze-A-Round hammock swing chair can be hung from a single suspension point and rolls up into a light, easily transportable package that can be neatly stored. The swing chair weighs in the region of 2.5 kg and is manufactured from nylon, with salinga struts and a foot piece, all held together by a polyethelene ski rope. The chair can support a person weighing up to 120 kg and due to the design, is easy to get into and out of. The chair is able to be folded and rolled up due to the use of a simple slip knot on the cross bar. The folded chair is just over one metre long and approximately 150 mm in diameter.
The Marsh Master is a transport-integrated exploration drill used in the mining industry to explore inaccessible patches of potentially diamondiferous gravels. The product is innovative due to the successful invention of a flotation and drive mechanism with four parallel mounted large cylinder floats or rollprops. On hard ground they all roll in the same direction, giving high tractive force. As the vehicle progressively sinks, flotation increases, traction reduces and the capacity to propel in the other plane by contra-rotating the roll props increases. The Marsh Master also has an innovative telescopic drill mast motion, which allows for single pass drilling to nearly double the depth of the stowed length of the mast without adding and removing drill extensions.

**Company:** Smith Capital Equipment (Pty) Ltd
**Designers (internal):** Roger R. Briggs, Craig Spence
**Designer (external):** Dave Clement, Dr M Hunt
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The POLOphone is a two-wire intercom system that allows communication between up to five points. In a domestic application the system provides communication and control between the gate and house, as well as between individual rooms. The integrated LED on each handset can be connected to the gate motor status indicator, while an auxiliary pushbutton allows control of additional functions such as security lights or pedestrian gates. Each component of the POLOphone is equipped with surge protection circuitry, providing higher levels of lightning protection than competing imported brands.

**Company:** Centurion Systems (Pty) Ltd  
**Designers (internal):** David Anderson, Lee Bonney  
**Designer (external):** Pierre DeFosse  
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The safe, portable, maintenance-free Respisense™ baby monitor clips onto the baby’s disposable nappy to protect against apnoea of prematurity, cot death and other life-threatening events. It can be used wherever baby may fall asleep, from cot to crèche to grandmother’s lap. If the tummy movement stops for more than 20 seconds, its built-in TummyTickle™ stimulator will stir the baby to restart breathing and if this stimulus should fail, a powerful alarm will alert the nearest caregiver. It has a simple and effective user interface and runs through a self-check routine every time it is activated.

**Company:** Infantrust Parenting Solutions  
**Designer (internal):** Hans Pietersen  
**Designers (external):** Greg Gallagher, Willie Saayman, Hugo Meyer  
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T: 0860-itrust [487878]  
W: www.respisense.com
The Rigidek Hard Tonneau cover is a lockable, durable and secure ABS plastic cover for the load-bins of bakkies. A unique feature of the Rigidek is the no drill installation. Pre-drilled holes in the load bin and clamps are used to secure the Rigidek to vehicles. This eliminates the risk of rust forming and also allows for easy fitment and removal that has no effect on the vehicles’ paint guarantee. A key or pressing a button on a remote transmitter unit – similar to that used in keyless entry systems - can open it. Closing it is as simple as closing the boot of a car. The unit locks automatically when closed.

**Company:** Vacufom 2000 (Pty) Ltd  
**Designers (internal):** Herman de Vries, Thys de Vries (the late) and Geoffrey Tugwell.  
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This product was designed and made precisely to stop unauthorised siphoning of fuels and other liquids from holding tanks. It fits the inlet-entrance instantly, requires no tooling or downtime, is self-locking into the designated position, without hampering inflow. The Shepherd’s Gate™ is made from selected stainless steel, is cost effective, maintenance free and eco/electronically friendly. This is a sound global partner product.

Company: Sliver’s & Gate Makers (Pty) Ltd
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The Terra Grader is a gravel road maintenance machine that costs half the price of a conventional grader. Its features include fire fighting equipment, a water tanker, compaction roller and a ripper. A tractor is used to tow it and its design is unique in the use of articulation to obtain angles, tilt and side shifting. This does away with engines, transmissions, tandems, torque converters and turning circle mechanism which are costly to repair or maintain. Owning and operating costs are less than R30 an hour, compared to more than R300 for a conventional grader.

Company: Terra Graders
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