



# Mining Industry Study Centre provides students with customised facilities

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The University's School of Engineering has embarked on a growth strategy over the last decade to address the shortage of engineering skills in South Africa. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of engineering students who need to be accommodated.

The development of additional teaching and research facilities through the financial support of both the University of Pretoria and the Department of Higher Education and Training resulted in the construction of the new Engineering 3 Building and parkade on the Hatfield Campus. This development provided additional lecture halls, laboratories, a new access road and entrance, and a parkade for 1 000 cars.

A further development, which forms a vital part of the School's strategy to increase the success of engineering students, is the construction of a study centre, that was officially opened on 31 October 2013. This study centre will provide facilities to support learning, especially groupwork.

Such a facility became a necessity due to the complexity of the students' lecture timetable and their changing demographic profile. There are many students who live far from the campus and travel great distances on a daily basis, and who do not have adequate facilities for study or groupwork at their homes or on campus.

The development of the study centre, situated immediately west of the Engineering 1 Building, was financially supported by Glencore-

Xstrata and the Anglo American Chairman's Fund. Additional sponsorships were received from CBI Electric (electrical components) and PPC Cement (cement). The contract for the project was allocated to Robenco Construction.

It accommodates 758 students in the following configurations on two levels: On Level 3, there are 252 individual workstations accessible to students on a first-come basis.

There are also 30 conceive, design, implement and operate (CDIO)-type venues where groups of seven students can work in a private cubicle equipped with a table and a flat-screen monitor. These venues are reserved through a computerised booking system. On Level 4, there are 296 cubicle seats without workstations.

The study centre is situated at the University's previous entrance off University Road at the Engineering 2 Building, which was closed when the new entrance to the parkade was constructed.

A new "drop-off-and-go facility" has been constructed at the old entrance, which is convenient for dropping off or picking up students in a safe environment adjacent to the study centre. ➔

