

SOUTH AFRICA

ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

South African National Committee on Tunnelling - SANCOT
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The South African National Committee on Tunneling (SANCOT) remains active in promoting tunneling and the use of underground space as a committee within the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM).

2013 was a relatively quiet year for the committee as there was little tunneling activity in the region so no seminars were held, but regular updates on projects performed by member companies are issued in the SAIMM monthly journal and work on establishing a database of parties interested in tunneling has commenced.

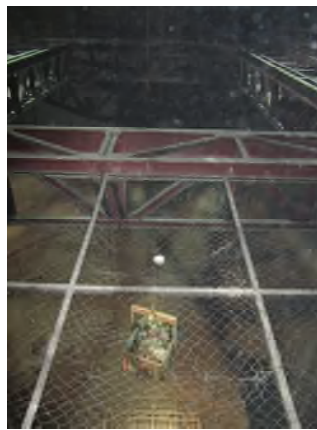


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Excavation work on the Ingula scheme was completed in May 2013 with the breakthrough of the two 20m diameter Surge Chamber shafts.

While there was no other tunneling work being executed in South Africa during the year a number of feasibility studies and designs were active, including the EPC Contractor's design for the Kabompo Gorge Hydroelectric project in Zambia, a feasibility study for the De Beer's Pass Tunnel in Kwazulu-Natal, and a feasibility study for the Smithfield Water Transfer Tunnel in Kwazulu-Natal.

Work on Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has started with the Project Management Unit for the scheme having been appointed in late 2013. It is anticipated that the Project Management Unit will issue requests for Expressions of Interest for the various phases of the work in the course of 2014. The scheme includes a 38.2km long, 5.2m diameter water transfer tunnel.



Fig's: Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme Powerhouse and Surge Chamber Excavation