

Crossroads appoints new CEO

Increasing market share and developing technology platforms to become the leading provider of real-time load and safety data per trip are key priorities for logistics operator Crossroads in 2023. Logistics operator, Crossroads has appointed Pieter Vermeulen as its new chief executive officer. Vermeulen who took over from Arend Du Preez joined Crossroads in May 2016 as a finance executive before being appointed as a director and chief financial officer in 2017.



Pieter Vermeulen, CEO, Crossroads

Sharing his hopes and plans for the company, Vermeulen says he is committed to growing the Crossroads brand, establishing it as the leading specialised freight transport operator in Southern Africa. “We are starting from a great position,” he comments. “The company is already a leader in the logistics sector. We are seeking to build on our strengths in the industry. Our strategy going forward is very clear – we want to grow our business, deliver greater operational efficiency and increase the value-add to our customers.”

Part of the plan, continues Vermeulen, is to launch a professional driver academy to improve the skilled professional driver database. “Finding good, skilled drivers remains a challenge and a concern in our industry. With this in mind, we have set out to make a difference and are launching a new professional driver academy in January next year.”

With TETA-accredited training facilities at its disposal, this academy will be responsible for the upskilling of existing Crossroads staff, but also assist in creating a pool of available, professionally trained drivers for the industry.

Customer-centric approach

Vermeulen says that, as customers look to future-proof their supply chains, Crossroads is uniquely placed - thanks to its industry knowledge, innovative technologies and customer focus - to deliver the necessary, sustainable and transformational solutions across the whole supply chain.

“We aim to instil a culture of value-add throughout our business, both to our customers and our internal and external stakeholders.”

He says 2022 was not easy on businesses, amidst ongoing global economic pressures. “We continue to see major instability in the volumes from month to month. We are, however, expecting to see this settle down in 2023 - this will allow us to drive our growth strategy.”

Staff development

“To me, it has always been important for staff to be empowered, irrespective of what role they have in the company. This enables staff to grow and become accountable in their areas of expertise,” he says.

He emphasises that, as a business, Crossroads wants to be seen as ethical, compliant and professional. “Transport and logistics are an integral part of any economy. Within our industry, our goal is to be a leading service provider,” he continues. “We are small compared to many of our competitors, but we are large enough to offer the compliance and professionalism required to service large companies.”

Crossroads chairperson Dr Anna Mokgokong says Vermeulen brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing strategies to deliver logistics solutions that meet customers' direct needs. "The board came to a unanimous decision to appoint Pieter as CEO. The combination of his experience, drive and culture makes him an ideal fit for Crossroads and our next stages of growth," she says.

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