



FNB KWAZULU-NATAL TOP BUSINESS PORTFOLIO AWARDS 2011



Trade winner: Magnet Electrical Supplies



Magnet Electrical Supplies scooped top honours in the Trade category. Receiving the company's award is managing director, Brian Howart (second from left) and sales director, Roshan Krishna. Presenting Magnet with its award are (from left) KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDT) Head of Department, Carol Coetzee as well as Lalita Dhasiar-Ventura and Grant Adlam, co-publishers of the KwaZulu-Natal Top Business Portfolio.

MAGNET has provided a reliable and efficient service to the industrial sector for nearly 40 years. "A well-planned and carefully implemented expansion programme has positioned Magnet as one of South Africa's leading suppliers of electrical and instrumentation products, and of abrasive materials," says Magnet's managing director, Brian Howarth. "The need for top-quality, accurate and reliable equipment inspired Magnet to secure the exclusive distributorship rights in this country for the reputable brands of many world-leading manufacturers." Magnet has maintained its leading position in this highly competitive industry because of its commitment to optimum quality, ongoing

assessment of market requirements, expert backup and delivery deadlines. In order to offer safety and quality guarantees demanded by world authorities, Magnet's range of equipment meets stringent international quality and safety standards. In conjunction with Eskom's demand side management (DSM) programme, Magnet's team of specialist engineers implements energy saving initiatives that involve replacement, retrofitting and relamping, for optimum energy efficiency in every application. Magnet's technical expertise, coupled with quality branded products and a 24-hour support service, ensures the best possible solution for every project.

Utilities finalists and winner



Umgeni Water, represented on stage by Thokozani Hammond (communications) and CEO Mzimkulu Msiwa (second and third from left, respectively) was the winner in the Utilities category.

THE finalists in the Utilities category, which includes the supply of electricity, gas and hot water, are Umgeni Water and Spring Lights Gas.

Spring Lights Gas
Spring Lights Gas, which supplies piped-gas solutions to a variety of industrial customers, has entrenched itself in the energy market in KZN since its inception in 2002. Its continuous growth can be attributed to a number of factors including uncertainties in the supply of power, and companies looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint while

enjoying the benefits of a complete energy solution.
WINNER: Umgeni Water
Umgeni Water is a strategic role player in the socioeconomic development of KZN. In doing "business unusual", Umgeni Water strives to tackle the ills of poverty, provide sustainable water solutions, implement more sanitation projects, raise environmental awareness, create job opportunities, and provide engineering and project management skills to deliver on non-related business in support of government's initiatives.



ARMSTRONG APPOINTMENTS was established in 2003 by the innovative Sharon Armstrong, and is one of the leading recruitment agencies in the industry. Armstrong carried out a vision to become a specialised boutique recruitment agency that delivers an extra-ordinary service embellished in quality, changing the face of recruitment in South Africa.

The growth of Armstrong is a classic tale of entrepreneurial drive, determination and vision. From a one-woman enterprise, this dynamic agency has snowballed incredibly within eight years into a much sought after Specialist / Executive Agency. They are involved in widespread international advertising campaigns to bring South Africans working abroad back home. Armstrong has satellite offices throughout South Africa and is the preferred supplier to most of the largest blue chip organisations throughout the country, as well as internationally.

Each consultant at Armstrong has been carefully selected and has undergone intensive psychometric testing to ensure that their skills, behavioural traits and moral being fit into the established company values.

Armstrong specialises in Middle to Director level recruitment nationally and internationally. An extensively trained consultant who has the industry specific experience runs each speciality division. The divisions that Armstrong focuses on are; Financial, Legal, Marketing (Marketing Research / Consumer Insight) Information Technology, Human Resources, Supply Chain and Technical which includes, engineering and mining.

In 2005 and 2006 Armstrong was a finalist in the Standard Bank Growth Awards, which is awarded for contributing toward economic development and growth in South Africa. This achievement was well deserved and only fueled the company's vitality. Armstrong's secret to success and growth is that they recognised during the recession that the recruitment industry has shifted substantially, as there has been less need for the recruitment of skills that are easy to source and that agencies are required when companies have failed to source themselves and the job is a short skill.

Armstrong Appointments is one of few agencies that offer such extensive sourcing campaigns for clients, which forms part of the service. With advertising in newspapers, magazines, websites, radio, search engines, they certainly do go the extra mile. They even host road shows and entertain candidates throughout the country to attract the top skill as well as adopting extensive networking and head hunting strategies to ensure the very best candidates are sourced timeously.

Armstrong has continually focused on black empowerment drives and has contributed to the following philanthropic initiatives:

I-care: An organization that makes a positive impact on disadvantaged & underprivileged communities, as well as those in need of social support.

CEFI – Corporate Education Funding Initiative: This concept involves building up capital in an education fund and then a previously disadvantaged child is nominated and becomes the beneficiary. The proceeds are paid to the university and educational institutions to ensure the child gets a good education.



Sharon Armstrong