

# compass

MAGAZINE



TAYLOR SMITH  
STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY GROUP

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# Sitting Down with Colin Taylor

The ability  
to adapt  
quickly  
to new  
scenarios  
is *critical*



## A great deal has happened since our last issue of *Compass*, not least the Covid pandemic.

A period that brought radical changes to the way we organise ourselves at work, making working from home and online meetings common and acceptable today.

The biggest change for Taylor Smith was the acquisition of the Indian Ocean cement operations of LafargeHolcim, now known as the Cementis Group. It basically turned us, overnight, from a Mauritian-based group to a regional one, so our footprint is now very much within the Mascarene area. This development brings with it many new challenges as we now have our people working in six different countries.

In 2023, we also acquired a majority stake in the Cernol Group of companies. We are now a leading player in the detergents and cleaning sector, not only in Mauritius but also Madagascar and the Seychelles.

In the last issue of *Compass*, our focus was about Sustainability; this is still very much something we strive hard to achieve within the Group. It's about how we can limit our impact on the different Islands, and what we can do to recycle and reuse not only our waste materials, but also our products and equipment that have reached the end of their lives.

Today the real challenge that most companies have – and we're no exception – is in the recruitment of the right people for our businesses and retaining them. It's vital that we nurture and keep our talented employees so that the Group succeeds and progresses. I think that, overall, we're getting it right, as we are seen to be a caring organisation for our employees, and that helps when recruiting. As an example, during Covid, we took the decision not to lay off a single employee. We redeployed the employees whose companies were severely affected by Covid and seconded them to sister companies, as best we could. And once Covid was over, they returned to their original occupations.

We're seeing the impact of rapid change on our businesses – whether that's from the pandemic, from the wars in Ukraine and Israel, climate change – all of these factors have a huge impact on our businesses, in terms of the reliability of supplies of raw materials and volatile costs. The ability to adapt quickly to new scenarios is critical; the bigger you are, the more difficult and complicated it is to change quickly.

Therefore, in order to be more agile and efficient we have made some changes to our Group structure and created clusters, each with their CEO who can give the full attention needed to the businesses. The general manager of each business unit remains fully empowered to run his or her own company autonomously whilst reporting to and getting support from a dedicated Cluster CEO. This should encourage intra-company sharing and growth, whilst improving efficiency and decision-making.

We look forward to continue growing our businesses in the region but at the same time we understand the need to adapt to the different business and social cultures present in each island. This also allows us to provide opportunities for some of our employees to apply for jobs in other countries whilst remaining in the Group.

**One of the sectors where we want to focus our attention is to look for opportunities in the business of recycling and being an active driver of change for the good of Mauritius.**

Our companies need to be doing what's right for the environment and the long-term sustainability of the planet. Sofap is an excellent example of what can be achieved when you set your mind to it. In only a few years, Sofap has now achieved the status of being a "Zero Waste company" in 2023, meaning it now recycles 95% of the waste it used to send to the landfill. Quite an achievement.

There are many environmental challenges out there and the interesting question for our Group is how do we turn such problems into business opportunities? The future belongs to those who are brave enough to try new things and we intend to continue with our tradition of innovation which has been present at the Taylor Smith Group since 1908.

Hope you enjoy our magazine.

**Colin Taylor**

# Taylor Smith's Values

**In a Group as diversified and regionally present as Taylor Smith, a unifying force is imperative to align employees towards a common set of objectives.**

Core values play a crucial role within any organisation; they unify individuals under a shared framework, serving as the foundation from which strategic, professional, and personal workplace aspirations are derived.

At the core of Taylor Smith's purpose statement, lie three core values that filter through every facet of the Group's activities and engagement with all its stakeholders.

**These values are Respect, Empower and Innovate.**

They serve as a compass, guiding conduct and interactions. Each business unit within the Group interprets and operationalises these values in ways that resonate most authentically to it, thereby incorporating them through tangible actions, embodying the concept of Living the Values.

In a nutshell, Taylor Smith's journey is underpinned by these core values, *fortifying its identity and propelling its operations.*



## Respect

This value underscores the essence of embracing diversity, acknowledging varying perspectives, and fostering environments enriched by differences. Respect is demonstrated every day through activities and interactions with different stakeholders. It encourages positive attitude and behaviour that involves valorising their feelings, opinions & rights. TSG nurtures relationships grounded in ethical and principled behaviour.

## Empower

Empowerment is the catalyst for enabling others to take on greater challenges, champion innovation, and ultimately realise elevated potential. By entrusting individuals with autonomy, this value cultivates self-assurance, fostering accountability for actions. Taylor Smith embraces this value by actively promoting holistic learning and development – of individuals, communities, the environment, and internal processes.

## Innovate

In an ever-evolving world, where change is constant across numerous dimensions, Taylor Smith encourages its people to always think out of the box and question the status quo. This entails urging its constituents to challenge conventional paradigms, and encouraging employees to explore avenues for heightened efficiency and sustainability. By championing effective communication, endorsing experimental learning, and steadfastly pursuing objectives, Taylor Smith's commitment to innovation culminates in a contented, industrious workforce.

In a nutshell, Taylor Smith's journey is underpinned by these core values, fortifying its identity and propelling its operations.

**As we navigate the dynamic landscapes of different industries, these values stand as unwavering pillars, nurturing unity, empowering growth, and driving transformative change.**





# Organogram

**Group CEO & Chairman**  
**Colin Taylor**

## OPERATIONS

**Industrial CEO**  
**Eric Adam**

GETS   Water Research   SOFAP  
Chlorigen   Aqua Science   Cernol

**Manufacturing CEO**  
**Didier Hardy**

Duraco   Aqualia   Profilage

**Marine CEO**  
**Thierry Bétuel**

Integrity   TS Equipment   TS Shipyard  
Novatay   TS Boatyard   OCETRA

**Cementis CEO**  
**Heba Capdevilla**

Cementis Mauritius   Cementis Réunion   Cementis Comores  
Cementis Seychelles   Cementis Mayotte   BIOS

**Energy CEO**  
**Robert Desvaux**

AEL ROD   AEL Equipment   AEL DDS  
Oceanis Storage   Oceanis Bunkering   Oceanis   MMCO

**Lavastone**  
**Managing Director**  
**Nicolas Vaudin**

## SHARED SERVICES

Corporate & Operations Finance, Internal Audit, Treasury

**Group Finance Director**  
**Gaetan Ah Kang**

Corporate Affairs   Bourbon Vanilla   Hospitality Plus   Oceangoers

**Corporate Affairs Director**  
**Dominique Vaudin**

People Strategies, Talent Development, Staff Engagement, Safety & Security

**Group HR Director**  
**Jean-Cyril Jullienne**

Raw IT Services   Oringo   IT Digital Property & Facilities, Compliance

**IT & Property Director**  
**Nicolas Raffray**

Taylor Smith Foundation & CSR

**Head of TS Foundation**  
**Ann Vallet**



# The World's Most Popular Aroma and Flavour

Vanilla is a spice derived from commercially grown orchids whose long, fleshy pods are cultivated for their prized flavour. While the vanilla orchid originated in Mexico, Madagascar has emerged as the global epicentre of vanilla production and the 'gold standard for quality', consistently producing approximately 80% of all vanilla consumed worldwide.

The primary distinguishing factor between Madagascan and Mexican vanilla lies in the pollination process. In Madagascar, the delicate task of pollinating the orchid flowers falls upon human hands, rendering it labour-intensive and time-consuming whereas in Mexico the pollination is done by the Melipone Bee.

The main vanilla harvested in Madagascar is of the planifolia variety, also known as Bourbon Vanilla.

**"People often wonder where the name 'Bourbon' comes from," says Nicolas Delapeyre, General manager.**

"As Bourbon is associated mainly with Réunion Island (which was its name until 1848), people are often confused by the term 'Bourbon Vanilla'. In fact, Bourbon Vanilla is the name given to all vanilla of the planifolia variety that comes from the Mascarene Islands, namely Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, Comores and Mayotte."

Bourbon Vanilla has been in operation since 2007, and is run by a young, dynamic, passionate team. It works in close collaboration with a vanilla producer in Madagascar who himself plants vanilla but also purchases from smaller planters in the neighbouring SAVA region. The preparation of the vanilla - a long process lasting more than nine months - is expertly done at his premises. The pods are imported into Mauritius only when they are fully cured and ready to consume.

Mauritius' strategic geographical proximity to Madagascar, in conjunction with the exceptional efficiency of the Island's logistics sector, has conferred a significant competitive advantage upon Bourbon Vanilla. The company boasts a well-established packaging division located in Mauritius, serving as a pivotal hub for supplying an extensive range of products to retail, wholesale, and industrial sectors locally and internationally. Under our proprietary in-house brand, Vanynilla, we offer a distinguished selection of vanilla products.

Moreover, our specialisation extends to the creation of private label offerings tailored to meet the requirements of retail industries across the globe.

While our historical focus predominantly centered on the European Union, particularly the Scandinavian region, we are presently engaged in a strategic repositioning effort to diversify our presence across an array of markets. These markets include but are not limited to the United States, South Korea, the Middle East, and Taiwan," explained Nicolas.

Following a remarkably successful vanilla planting experiment conducted by one of our dedicated employees, the company has embraced the cultivation of vanilla within the Mauritian landscape. The exceptional achievements of this particular employee in cultivating thriving vanilla orchids and consistently delivering impressive harvests have become a source of immense pride for our entire team. However, it is important to note that the quantities harvested, while commendable, remain very modest.





From an organoleptic perspective, Mauritian vanilla possesses a distinct aromatic profile that sets it apart from the vanilla produced by our neighboring regions. Both varieties exhibit exceptional qualities, and the nuances between them may often go unnoticed by the average palate.

Regrettably, the volumes of Mauritian vanilla produced thus far are insufficient to adequately cater to the demands of international markets.

At Bourbon, our entire range of products is exclusively crafted from natural vanilla pods. Our core expertise lies in the meticulous packaging and global export of various vanilla products, including pods, extracts, cuts, powders, flavoured sugars, honeys, pastes, and seeds. Each year, our top-selling items fluctuate between pods, extracts, pastes, and powders.

**“We take great pride in the fact that our extracts are 100% natural as opposed to most vanilla essences which are derived from synthetic vanillin.”**

Artificial vanilla is mostly made from chemicals and other ingredients that mimic the taste of vanilla, but they fail to capture the authentic smell and true flavour profile of this prized spice.

Bourbon Vanilla Ltd operates under the most rigorous food safety and quality assurance protocols. Our unwavering commitment to excellence has driven us to obtain specific certifications mandated by our global clientele, ensuring the highest standards in our operations.



We proudly hold the well-respected BRC (British Retail Consortium) certification, which serves as a testament to our dedication to quality and food safety. This certification underscores our commitment to meeting and exceeding the stringent criteria demanded by the industry.

Furthermore, our production processes adhere to the rigorous standards of organic certification as outlined by the Ecocert Organic Standard. This certification guarantees that a minimum of 95% of our ingredients are sourced from organic farming, emphasising our dedication to sustainable and natural practices.

In addition to these certifications, we are proud to be Kosher (KLBD) and Halal certified, reflecting our commitment to accommodating diverse dietary preferences and requirements. Our adherence to BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative) standards, an internationally recognized system, underscores our commitment to ethical compliance throughout our supply chain, ensuring transparency and accountability at every stage of our operations.



In November 2022, Bourbon Vanilla Ltd was awarded its Fairtrade certification, reinforcing yet again their commitment to sustainability and that of ‘putting its employees, partners and the planet first’. “Fair-Trade certification is one of the most well-known and diverse drivers of global change. In our case, it starts in the fields, so we ensure that our planters farm vanilla in a sustainable way, and are fairly remunerated for their efforts.

**“We’re also systematically working on our packaging materials to see if we can eliminate or reduce excess wrapping – this year alone, packaging consumption of our 15-pod packs diminished by 8.5%.”**

Research and Development (R&D) constitutes an integral element of the company’s core identity.

Our unwavering commitment to innovation propels us to continuously evolve and effectively respond to the developing needs of our valued clients. Currently, our R&D division is diligently engaged in the development of cutting-edge initiatives. This includes the creation of a bespoke vanilla rum kit, meticulously designed to offer customers the convenience of crafting their own vanilla-infused alcoholic beverages. Simultaneously, we are developing a range of vanilla extracts featuring varying concentration levels.

These versatile extracts hold the potential to serve as a practical solution for enhancing the flavours of ice cream and baked goods, catering to the diverse requirements of our clientele.

Market adaptability is a fundamental component of Bourbon’s strategic approach, characterised by our continuous efforts to cater to the changing demands of our tourist market. The burgeoning tourism sector, experiencing steady growth year after year, has spurred our company’s innovative endeavours. We actively seek input from the local market, leveraging feedback to conceptualise and develop a diverse range of novelty products tailored specifically for the international visitors.

In addition to offering our exceptional range of vanilla derivatives, Bourbon extends its product portfolio to include a selection of authentic Mauritian items. This includes Fleur de Sel, a premium plain sea salt, honey and sugar which play an important role in promoting our beautiful country on the global stage.

**Nicolas said “Our products embody quality and uniqueness; that’s what customers expect of Bourbon Vanilla, and that’s what they’ll receive.”**





# Building on Local Development through Regional Optimisation



Heba Capdevila-Jangeerkhan

Heba Capdevila-Jangeerkhan is as diverse as her name suggests; a fascinating mix of Spanish and Egyptian heritage, who grew up moving from Chile, to Spain, Oman, Ireland and then the United Kingdom. Her university years were grounded in the UK, and she has an MSc in Organisational Development. She has over 30 years' professional industrial experience in manufacturing, sales and marketing, human resources, strategy and development, to senior executive roles in both the public and private sectors.

After marrying her Irish-Mauritian husband, she settled in Mauritius in 1995 but couldn't speak a word of French nor Creole. Now she's fluent in five languages, and her personal diversity is reflected in the way she leads the Cementis Group. In 2002 she had joined the Rogers Group's engineering division as human resources director, but two years later, amidst the restructuring and a subsequent management buyout of Rogers' engineering cluster and other companies by the Taylor family, the Taylor Smith Group was born.

**"We were full of drive, energy and conviction that we were going to write a success story. It was a team effort and a journey where we had ups and downs, like any business, and that's how the Taylor Smith Group was formed. We had fun doing it together, we gave the best of ourselves and hoped to inspire our teams to do the same; in this way, we've always held true to our values of 'Respect, Trust and Innovation,'" said Heba.**

For me, the concept of parity is one where we acknowledge that everyone has a role to play, *has something different and complementary to bring to the table*



In October 2021, Taylor Smith Investment completed the acquisition of the Holcim Indian Ocean cluster activities and the Cementis Group emerged as a family of five: Cementis Mauritius, Cementis Reunion, Cementis Mayotte, Cementis Comores and Cementis Seychelles.

After 20 years as part of the Taylor Smith Group, Heba decided to step out of her comfort zone and was appointed CEO of the Cementis Group in December 2022. "The move was driven by the belief in pushing oneself beyond what we perceive to be our limitations into an environment where we have to learn, develop strength and drive the business towards a holistic success with fully onboarded and empowered teams. I've always been a strong enabler of women in leadership positions and so it was for me: walking the talk and taking the driving seat in an industry where, admittedly, it's rare to find women in leadership roles.

"For me, the concept of parity is one where we acknowledge that everyone has a role to play, has something different and complementary to bring to the table. An enriching dialogue and different perspectives make for better decisions and the impact on the business is positive. You, as a leader, have to be the first one to live it, to set the example, because leaders are enablers, and they must live out diversity and inclusion through their actions and behaviour."

Part of Cementis' strength derives from its geographical regional diversity, as it operates four cement terminals, and grinding, precast, crushing and ready-mix plants in Reunion.

The regional footprint and synergies being built across the Group represent an important part of its growth strategy over the next five years.



Its regional footprint provides Group solidity as synergies are shared and materialised: what each Island offers in terms of knowledge, best practices, competencies and synergies, boosts overall operations. Innovation, increased proximity to customers (Mauritius has just opened a new depot in the east) and offering greater accessibility as part of its second level strategy, are also vitally important for growth.

An example of this is the Cementis industrial community. This is a group where all those who are industrial champions on each Island – factory managers, engineers, and so on – have a forum and structure to share experiences, and work on common projects.

**“This is a way to exchange ideas and information - a cross-fertilisation of expertise - but it’s also an informal channel to discuss problems and resolutions with colleagues in the same boat,” said Heba. “It’s a win-win for everyone, as we share knowledge across the region.”**

The same concept is now being rolled out regionally across other functions – laboratories, R&D, human resources, sales, and so on. Cementis teams are collectively working on a Decarbonisation Strategy across the businesses, developing new product lines and investing in innovation, R&D resources, infrastructure, equipment and initiation of other projects.

Value addition across the board is a further regional strategy and objective. 10 to 15 years ago, Cementis’ 42.5 Cem II cement products were the only ones available to the regional housing market but over the years, the Company has developed new products which incorporate local content blending and a diverse range of applications and choice for consumers. For example, last year at Cementis Mauritius, the teams developed a new 32.5 formulation, which strengthens the positioning of this product as a structural option for home builders, at a more competitive rate.



**“A key function is our Health and Safety, which is critical to the wellbeing of our teams. Safety, health and the environment are a way of life for us,” said Heba.**

Cementis is a regional player whose purpose is to create a working environment where team members live the values of respect, and of trust; where people can find their voice, bring their ideas to the table, and flourish, because their growth matters. It’s a place where people choose to go to work – spending so much time at the office makes work almost another living space, so teams must feel valued, appreciated, and understood, particularly because they’re expected to contribute so much. (Cementis Mauritius was recently certified a ‘Great Place to Work’ as voted by more than 90% of its employees [possibly subjective, but nonetheless an impressive statistic, by any organisational standards]).

“Cementis is a place where suppliers, customers, neighbours and even our environment, are respected and treated equally with the application of those values. Look after your people because they’re the ones who look after the organisation. It’s a ripple effect: you can’t expect your people to be what you are not towards them. So yes, we’re cement and we’re cementitious, but we’re also people.”

Heba’s leadership style has invariably changed the operational norm since she assumed the role of CEO. The team culture has been transformed through a series of small, continuous behavioural changes with a leadership style not about authority or hierarchy or status, but focussing, instead, on thought and transformational leadership. “If you asked me what kind of direction/leadership I bring to the table, I believe it’s multidimensional but it would certainly include Servant Leadership: enabling others through your guidance to stand out and be the best version of themselves.

“Servant leadership promotes others’ growth by the way you lead, it highlights their strengths, because the emphasis is always on the team – not an individual. I think there’s been a gradual shift in the business community, away from hierarchical, authority-based leadership, towards a more talent-based direction and this is progress in many respects.”

Cementis declared 2023 ‘The Year of Diversity’. After a kick-off in March through a webinar open to all employees from the five Islands, Heba shared insights into her own diverse background, and a calendar of events was shared with team members throughout the Group.

She shared her belief and drive to develop a strategy for Cementis where the focus of the teams across the board is on achieving a triple bottom line – the 3Ps: Planet, People, Profit. One objective does not have to be at the expense of another; in fact, the most sustainable strategy for any organisation is to align all three objectives as part of its bottom-line measure and KPIs.

All such developments and changes form part of leveraging Cementis to be a strongly-consolidated regional actor, vis-à-vis different communities, the people, the industry, innovation and development of industry alternatives, and the environment in which the Group operates.

**“My wish is that, in the years to come, each and every Island will have achieved a strong, sustainable position in terms of its revenue lines, its financial health, its product and service development, and its competence. I also hope that we attract and retain the best talent, because we are a team of which people want to be a part. The Cementis Group is a reference to the industry in the region for product, service and knowledge, made possible by partnering with our customers to respond to their needs and innovation within the construction industry.”**





# New TSG Broom Sweeps Clean

Cernol, a Mauritian company, started its operations with pride in 1973, firmly establishing itself as a prominent leader in the specialised chemical sectors in the domestic and industrial markets.

In 2023, Cernol celebrated its 50-year milestone, during which it has consistently delivered a robust portfolio of products, leaving its mark not only across the Island but also throughout the wider regional landscape.



In the era of environmental consciousness Cernol recognises that sustainable practices are not just a trend, but a necessity. Water is a significant part of its industry, so Cernol minimises its ecological footprint by monitoring consumption very closely, and by mainly using its borehole water. Furthermore, Cernol is dedicated to enhancing its current product offerings and supporting customers through its diligent research and development initiatives.

A prime example lies in the textile industry, where Cernol's products can be seamlessly integrated into wet processing systems, requiring lower operating temperatures. This innovative approach not only reduces the overall water consumption per kilogramme of fabric, but also shortens the processing time, offering a more efficient and eco-friendly alternative to traditional washing methods. By leveraging Cernol's advanced product range, washing cycles can be optimised, allowing for effective cleaning at lower temperatures, and what's more, both domestic and commercial laundries stand to gain from this advantage. This not only prolongs the lifespan of linens but also contributes to substantial energy cost savings, making it a win-win scenario for all.

When it comes to cleaning kitchen floors, some specialised products incorporate specific enzymes, eliminating the need for a rinsing step in the process. This not only saves valuable time but also conserves water resources. As an added benefit, these enzymes persistently operate within drains, effectively breaking down fats and soiled particles. This unique feature minimises the strain on wastewater treatment systems when compared to conventional chemical cleaners, making it a more environmentally responsible choice.

Cernol is not just about being green, it's also about delivering the highest quality products. "Production is carried out with strict adherence to our quality control processes, leading to consistently high-standard end products," Olivier Constantin, Cernol's Chief Executive Officer explained.







“Waste management has become a priority for Cernol and currently its sustainability focus has been mostly on the circularity of plastics. In our mission to promote sustainability, we partner with industrial clients in construction, hospitality, and textile sectors, who graciously return empty containers for us to replenish and reuse.”

For our valued domestic customers, we’ve established a convenient refill station at our factory shop, offering a selection of 10 products that can be easily replenished using your own containers. These simple yet impactful measures play a crucial role in not only curbing plastic consumption but also delivering savings directly to our valued customers.

The Cernol refill station has been running since September 2020, with bigger numbers of sales mainly in dishwashing liquid and laundry detergent. The number of products available was recently increased and this has attracted new customers to the initiative.

“We are looking towards a new chapter in our history,” said Constantin. “Our aim is to occupy an even bigger market share within Mauritius and the Indian Ocean region, by redefining cleanliness in a manner that is kind to both consumers and the planet.”

“Production is carried out with strict adherence to our quality control processes, leading to consistently *high-standard end products.*”



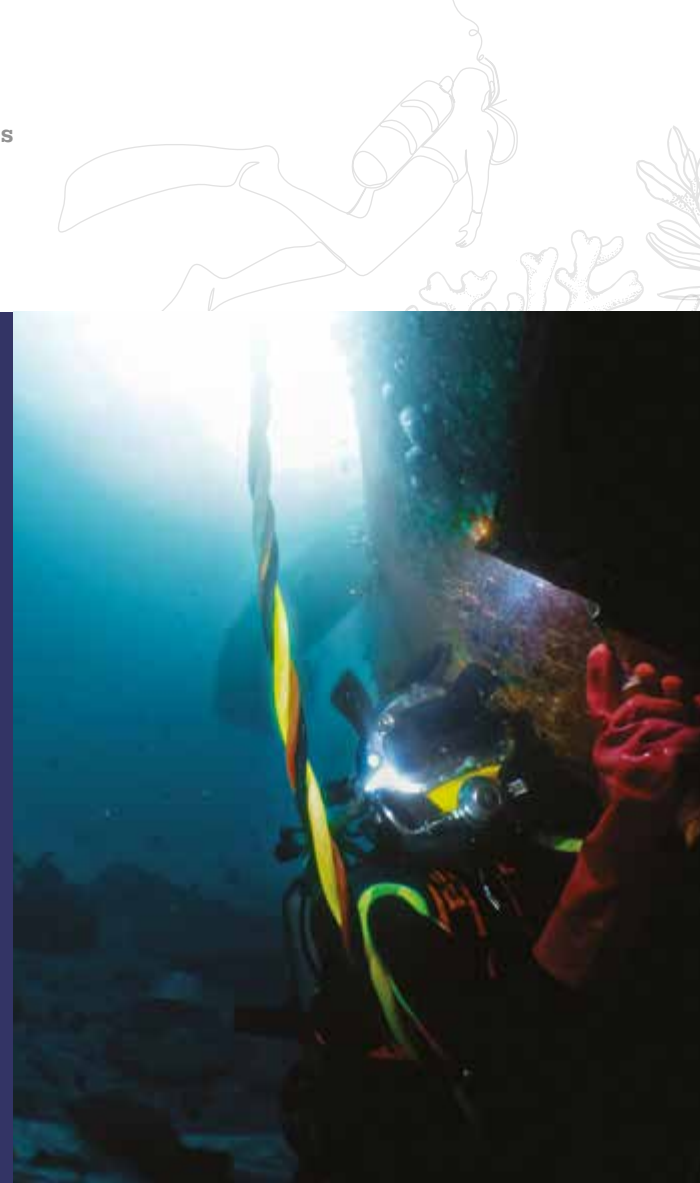




# In the dynamic landscape of maritime services

Ocetra Mauritius emerges as a beacon of expertise, specialising in underwater operations, maritime works, and heavy handling in both the Island and the expansive Indian Ocean region. The company was founded in 2021 through a strategic partnership between Taylor Smith Investment Ltd and Ocetra Réunion, marking a significant milestone in the maritime industry.

**Simon Gouranton, General Manager of Ocetra Mauritius, emphasises the pivotal role the company plays in supporting Mauritius' aspirations to become a regionally-recognised shipping hub. He states that "Mauritius aims to be a regionally-recognised shipping hub, but to do that, it needs well-established support to safeguard the sector. The Taylor Smith Group is already heavily invested in numerous sub-sectors in the maritime and logistics industries, so our relationship further strengthens that presence."**



At the heart of Ocetra Mauritius is a team of dedicated professionals, blending the skills of professional divers and maritime experts.

**"OCETRA is well-known for its know-how and diverse expertise in maritime, underwater, and hostile environment works."**

In addition to expertise related to underwater work, OCETRA brings its skills to external inspections or consulting in maritime and underwater operations, as well as in the realm of urgent and specific interventions. It has also gained substantial experience in river, port, and industrial works.

## Respecting the Depths: Sustainable Underwater Operations

Ocetra Mauritius places paramount importance on environmental stewardship, especially when a significant portion of its operations occurs underwater. The company is responsible for inspecting, repairing, and maintaining various underwater structures, including bridges, dams, piers, pipelines, and marine equipment.

Continuous training and development ensure that the team can execute its task effectively while prioritising the safety of all members during each operation. "The extent of our underwater work is broad," explains Simon.

"From building foundation rafts to installing outfalls at sea, our team operates in diverse terrains, performing tasks like welding, drilling, and setting up structures to mitigate the impact of wave action on coastal structures."

## Meeting Challenges Head-On: Environmental Responsibility

Before embarking on underwater construction, Ocetra addresses several critical challenges unique to this demanding environment. Structures must withstand corrosion, water pressure, and different currents. Moreover, the company is committed to assessing and minimising the environmental impact on marine ecology before, during, and after construction.

Ocetra Mauritius undertakes diverse projects such as laying artificial reefs, installing anti-pollution dams, and creating bubble curtains to protect marine life from blasting or drilling noise.

Bubble curtains are walls of bubbles that reduce sound intensity, and exemplify the company's dedication to responsible and sustainable practices.

"We also undertake project studies in areas such as collection of water and sediment samples, surveys, launches, and bathymetry, where we study the ocean floor or riverbed. No two days are the same, which is what makes this job so meaningful, important, and above all, interesting," he concludes.

In the dynamic realm of maritime services, Ocetra Mauritius stands as a testament to innovation, expertise, and environmental responsibility, contributing significantly to the growth and sustainability of the Mauritius as a shipping-force hub to be reckoned with, in the Mascarene region.



# Networking by Word of Mouth

RAW IT Services was formerly a division of the Taylor Smith Group, until 2020. Now, as an independent company, it approaches business with a renewed sense of purpose, drives innovation on its own terms, and fosters stronger client relationships. Such factors will surely propel it to become a force to be reckoned with in the IT services and compliance industries.

RAW IT Services Limited has four core departments that work collaboratively, delivering comprehensive services and solutions to clients.

**IT Support** handles hardware, software, networking, and infrastructure issues, ensuring smooth operations, timely troubleshooting, and minimal downtime for maximum productivity.

**Network Management and Cybersecurity** maintain secure networks, optimises components, monitors performance, and addresses cybersecurity concerns, safeguarding digital assets.

"The vital importance of data security and protecting information from unauthorized access, theft, or damage cannot be overemphasised," said Denis Mourghen, general manager and head of the company. "Companies must take potential threats - cyberattacks, data breaches, and unauthorized access to data - very seriously and ensure that they have technical and organisational measures like encryption, firewalls, access control and regular security audits, in place at all times."

**The Compliance department** ensures client conformity with data privacy regulations, establishes consent procedures, and trains employees to reduce human error risks, such as data leaks and phishing attacks, while maintaining data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. "Our Compliance and Quality Systems department is vital for ensuring adherence to data protection laws, privacy regulations, and ethical guidelines. They create and enforce policies, procedures, and controls while also monitoring quality standards and conducting audits to improve RAW IT's services."

Finally, **the Consultancy department** offers guidance and assistance throughout the entire lifecycle of business management solutions. This involves requirements gathering, solution design, configuration, customisation, data migration, and integration with existing systems, so that RAW IT staff can customise the implementation process according to the client's needs.

Staff streamline organisational processes by analysing workflows, proposing industry-best practices, and leveraging Navision Business Central to enhance efficiency and productivity. They also digitalise manual processes, saving time, reducing errors, and modernising operations for competitiveness in the digital landscape.

Our team's commitment to delivering exceptional quality within a structured approach *has been instrumental in establishing our reputation*





The transition of RAW IT from being a Taylor Smith department to a standalone company has positively and significantly, impacted its business strategies. With greater autonomy and flexibility in decision-making, its team adapts quicker and more effectively to industry changes and market demands.

"The team and I work closely to stay ahead of the curve in terms of technological advancements," said Denis. "I also play a key role developing strategic partnerships and fostering relationships so that we understand clients' needs and provide them with specific solutions."

The change to an independent firm has also brought about a renewed sense of accountability and responsibility from RAW IT. No longer reliant solely on Taylor Smith's resources and support, the firm has developed departmental teams and infrastructure to drive its own success. "We now have the freedom to set our own policies and goals which are closely aligned with the specific demands of the IT industry and compliance. Such agility enables us to be more responsive to market trends and emerging technologies," he said.

RAW IT has experienced considerable growth since its inception three years ago. "We've invested considerable time and effort in exploring new opportunities to increase our services and cater to a wider range of needs. While not every venture may yield immediate success, our team's commitment to delivering exceptional quality within a structured approach has been instrumental in establishing our reputation." One notable aspect of the company's growth stems from word-of-mouth referrals it receives from clients. Attention to detail and a structured, tailor-made approach further differentiate RAW IT.

Regarding RAW IT's growth, internal development is crucial. The company prioritises staff learning and personal growth to stand out from competitors. Staff believe that they drive RAW IT's success, so fostering a professional development-focused work environment is essential for innovation.

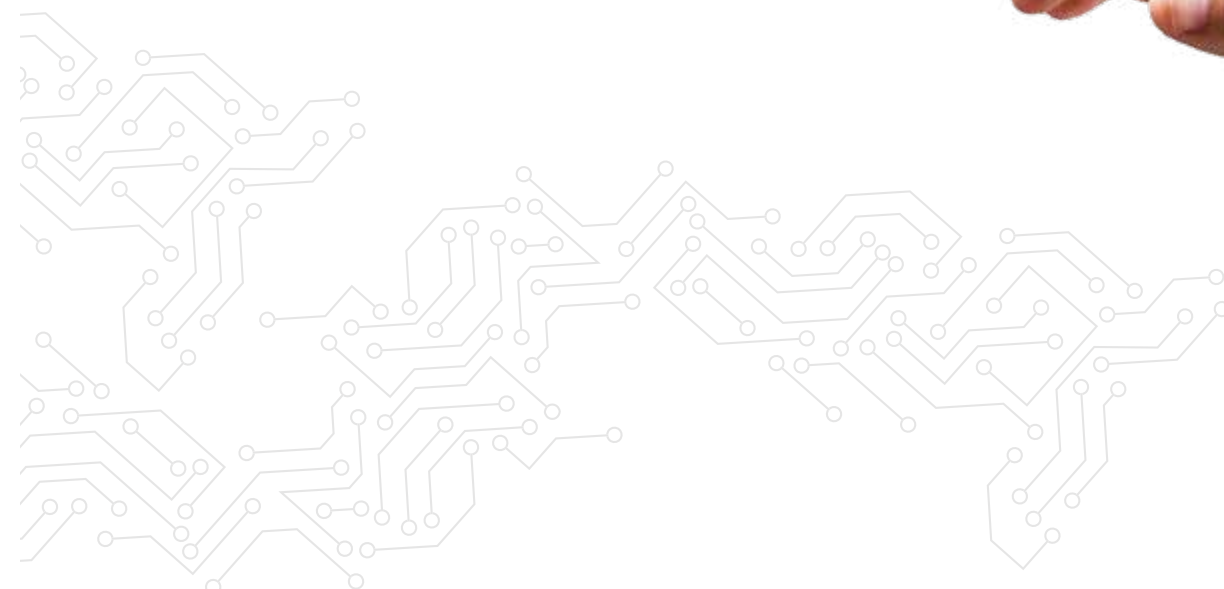
**"We encourage our team to continually expand their skills through training programmes and resources. This investment enhances their expertise, leading to exceptional results for our clients. Our company also promotes a collaborative culture, encouraging knowledge sharing and cross-functional learning. It's a win-win-win for clients, staff, and RAW IT," said Denis.**

And what about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the IT industry? "One significant impact of AI is its ability to automate tasks and processes; for instance, AI-powered systems can analyse vast amounts of data, extract valuable insights, and then make informed decisions in real-time. This not only saves time and resources, but also enables businesses to make data-driven decisions and improve operational effectiveness," said Denis.

It also has the potential to drive innovation and create new opportunities. Machine learning algorithms and deep neural networks have shown remarkable capabilities in areas such as natural language

processing, computer vision, and predictive analytics, leading to the development of intelligent virtual assistants, autonomous vehicles and other applications that enhance user experiences and drive technological advancements.

"AI's undeniable impact on tech requires us to address its ethical implications and challenges as it becomes more widespread. Ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness in its implementation is vital. Balancing innovation with ethics is essential to responsibly harness AI's full potential."





# The Ocean's our Business

The Seychelles comprises more than 115 islands in the Indian Ocean and is considered one of the most beautiful tropical destinations anywhere on the planet. With average temperatures of 30°C and the sea a comfortable 27°C, it's no surprise that the boating industry is booming.

Taylor Smith Naval Services is a leading supplier and service provider to the Seychellois and surrounding region's marine industry. Strategically based on Mahé Island, the archipelago's commercial and economic hub, the company has provided a solid, comprehensive suite of marine services for nearly 30 years. "In 2015 we upgraded our facilities so that we became a bespoke marine service supplier. Recent investments mean that we've added another 5500m² to our boatyard at Providence, which amongst other things, provides greater long-term storage capacity, and plenty of room for mooring and docking at our shipyards," said Chief Operations Officer, Rajen Naidu.

Fabrication and maintenance can also be undertaken onsite wherever a boat is berthed – whether for stainless steel work, engine, electrical, mechanical or fibreglass repairs. The company operates a slipway capable of lifting vessels of up to 600 tonnes and owns a 150-tonne travel lift with associated quay. Services to clients include haul out, lift and launch facilities, plus dry dock services like painting, and anti-fouling. It has a fuel depot at the Providence shipyard for refuelling and fuel optimisation facilities, and its expertise extends to boat building and fabricating other by-products in fibreglass or steel.

Taylor Smith Naval Services provides salvage operations with the requisite equipment and expert divers in times of peril at sea. "Auxiliary amenities like secure storage units, upholstery fabrication and marine supplies are available as we strive to provide a one-stop shop for anything marine related," said Rajen. "We provide years of expert technical and managerial know-how as we wholeheartedly focus on becoming the leading marine service facility in the Indian Ocean region."

The firm was originally known as Gondwana Marine Services. Once Taylor Smith (based in Mauritius) became involved with the latter, the company assumed the name Taylor Smith Shipyard in 2016. A couple of years later, after a strategic merger with Naval Services (1994) Limited and an acquisition of shares by Land Marine Limited (a Seychelles-registered company), the firm was rebranded as Taylor Smith Naval Services Limited, which now owns five subsidiaries to complement its services – from fire safety equipment, to industrial gases, to electric buggies – you name it, they have it.

**"As we set our course to become the leading shipyard in Seychelles, in 2023 we recruited a Seychelloise CEO at the helm of the Group - Veronique Herminie - and Dr Selwyn Gendron assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Directors."**

Whatever one's requirements for boats operating in Seychelles waters, Taylor Smith Naval Services Limited is the all-round expert service provider. More information can be obtained by logging on to its website – [www.tsnaval.com](http://www.tsnaval.com) and it can also be found on Facebook as 'Taylor Smith Naval Services Seychelles'.

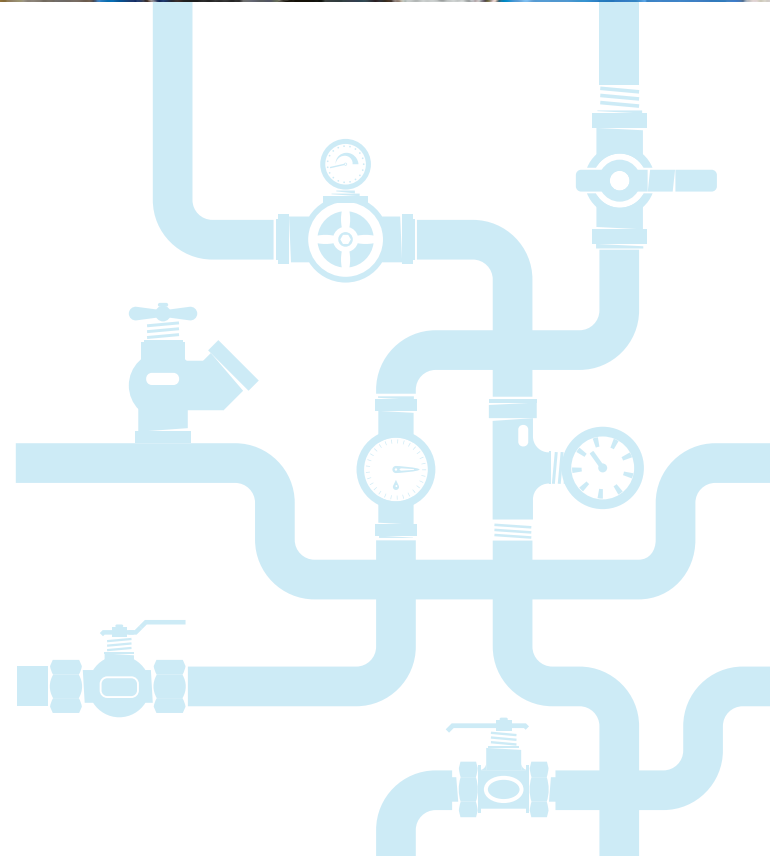






# Quality Engineering for Water Solutions

Aqua Science and Technology is a pioneering company committed to delivering innovative water engineering and chemical expertise services in Mauritius and the Indian Ocean region. Since its incorporation in October 2012, the company has focused consistently on positively impacting the environment by providing first-class water solutions. Since then, growth has been exponential, in terms of human capital and a portfolio of client and services delivered. Dive into the world of Aqua Science, unveiling water solutions for a sustainable tomorrow!



At the heart of the company are Mrinal Khadoo and Clarel Fanchon, General Manager and Regional Sales Director respectively. They have been working together since 2007 and their passion for water treatment is unwavering; possessing a remarkable drive and ambition, and always striving to push the boundaries of water management.

**Aqua Science's mission has always been to provide first-class water engineering and chemical expertise services within the Indian Ocean region.**

**"The management of water resources includes planning, development, distribution and management of those facilities in the most efficient and effective ways, especially in relation to industry and commerce," said Mrinal.**

One of the company's core values is innovation, and this reflects in the pair's approach to every project. This commitment places significant emphasis on technical acumen and the incorporation of cutting-edge technology, with the overarching objective of ensuring the provision of potable water, irrespective of its source.

Whether it is sourced from surface or groundwater, Mrinal and Clarel exhibit unwavering diligence in ascertaining the most suitable treatment approach for each project, consistently leveraging eco-conscious solutions, such as chlorine dioxide systems.





This not only safeguards individuals against waterborne illnesses but also promotes environmental sustainability and the optimisation of machinery performance.

**“Our commitment to sustainable development is aligned with our mission to provide integrated resources management plans. By considering the ecological, social, and economic elements, we ensure that the solutions offered promote a harmonious coexistence between water resources and human activity.”**

In recent times, climate change has posed challenges to water availability, making seawater desalination a crucial source of potable water. Aqua Science's expertise in desalination technology, particularly through reverse osmosis systems, has become increasingly vital in the region.

The company proudly undertook more than 40 desalination and reverse osmosis plant projects from 2012 to 2022 in Mauritius, Rodrigues, Seychelles, Madagascar, Zanzibar and Djibouti, providing communities and clients with a reliable supply of potable and processed water.

The company also assumes a pivotal role in the realm of wastewater management. It possesses the requisite expertise to effectively reduce dissolved or suspended organic constituents, thereby ensuring that water attains and maintains the highest standards of quality, all in accordance with stringent environmental regulations. This proficiency extends across a spectrum encompassing both expansive recycling or treatment facilities and more modest, localised operations, thereby exemplifying the firm's adaptability and steadfast dedication to securing lasting economic benefits for our clients.

With the significant experience of the Technical Manager, Shashi Bucha, in the field of Waste Water Treatment, Aqua Science has grown in this sector over the past few years.

Aqua Science continues to make a positive impact on the environment and in communities by offering comprehensive water engineering and chemical expertise services. With a focus on innovation, sustainability and quality, the company remains at the forefront of tackling water challenges in the Indian Ocean region, safeguarding this precious resource and promoting a brighter, water-secure future for all.



Aqua Science's mission has always been to provide *first-class water engineering and chemical expertise* within the Indian Ocean region





# A Concrete Solution



Dr Zhang is a Hong Konger by residency, who now wears several hats: new to Mauritius, new to Cementis, and new to the Company's R&D department. Although based in Mauritius as head of the unit, Binyu will also oversee the group's R&D operations in Réunion, Mayotte, Comores and the Seychelles.



"I was born in China and lived in Hong Kong for 12 years," she said. "I spent years doing R&D work in university laboratories, then I moved across from an R&D institute to the R&D department of a giant environmental technology company. The jobs I had before joining Cementis were excellent training grounds, but there were times when I felt I needed to do something different." So, Mauritius is the something different for Binyu. It's the first exotic destination she's visited, and she loves the climate, as it has "like 10 months of summer and two months 'chilled' summer". It could surprise her.

Concrete is the most widely used man-made material in the world. Each tonne of cement manufactured is associated with almost one tonne of carbon emission, so tackling the emission factor in cement is critical. With a Master's degree in Sustainable Urban Development, and a doctorate in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Binyu's expertise is in green cement and eco-mortar products' development, especially those with recycled raw materials.

**The major objective of green cement products' development and its application, is reduced carbon emissions.**

**There are several advantages of producing low carbon cement products. Firstly, it promotes local waste recycling; secondly, it reduces the cost of importing and reduces the cost of the raw materials required, and it also meets market demand for the product in a more environmentally-sustainable manner. Last but not least, it generates carbon credits, which has the potential to be transferred to tangible benefits.**

Green cement technology is fairly new, as is the idea of lowering carbon emissions, and applications for the specific purpose of carbon emission reduction began filtering into the industry only recently. Prior to that, companies used alternative raw materials such as fly-ash or slag to substitute part of the cement, but the principle then was to improve durability or reduce cost. Focussing on the environmental impact is a relatively new concern.



**“As head of R&D, my primary role is to develop new cement products like low carbon cements. My work is very application-oriented and highly market driven, which is vastly different to what I was doing previously,” said Binyu. “Now I have to cater to the needs of clients, and see what the market demands. My role serves as a bridge that links laboratory research with the real world: this is where innovation meets application. With the R&D sector being so new, it’s exciting to build something like this from scratch.”**

Binyu is currently working on securing the funding for new equipment and space for exciting new developments. Only once those are in place, can she handpick her team. “I’ll be looking for people who are passionate about research – especially in the cement field – as well as those who are experienced in laboratory testing and products qualification. Then together we’ll make the Cementis R&D lab functional,” she said.

There are a few things Binyu aims to do with the department. Firstly, it will be the centre of new product development using the new equipment and proper testing tools. While development of low-carbon cement is a short-term objective, staff will always provide consultancy services to the other Islands’ manufacturing departments to solve any problems that arise from new products’ application.

The lab will also serve as a testing and qualification centre, to ensure that every raw material Cementis deals with and every product it provides, complies with regulations and standards, and it will also be an internal and external training centre. Finally, the advanced characterisation equipment will enable the department to carry out research activities beyond product development and testing.

There are local and international standards and regulations that need to be followed in the industry. “Put another way, we need qualified equipment, qualified staff to operate it, and then we can run qualification tests and become a centre that provides qualification tests services.” Ever since Binyu began working with low-carbon cement, she discovered that the existing regulations and Standard are far too conservative. That outdatedness hinders the development of low-carbon cement worldwide to a degree. Binyu’s vision is that discussions about updating regulations can be held with the local Standard Bureau. Once the R&D lab demonstrates that when mixtures are incorporated with recycled materials, new products can still be high-performance, and safe, and generate low-carbon emissions – all at the same time. And once the standards are updated, guidelines can be shared with the rest of the industry.

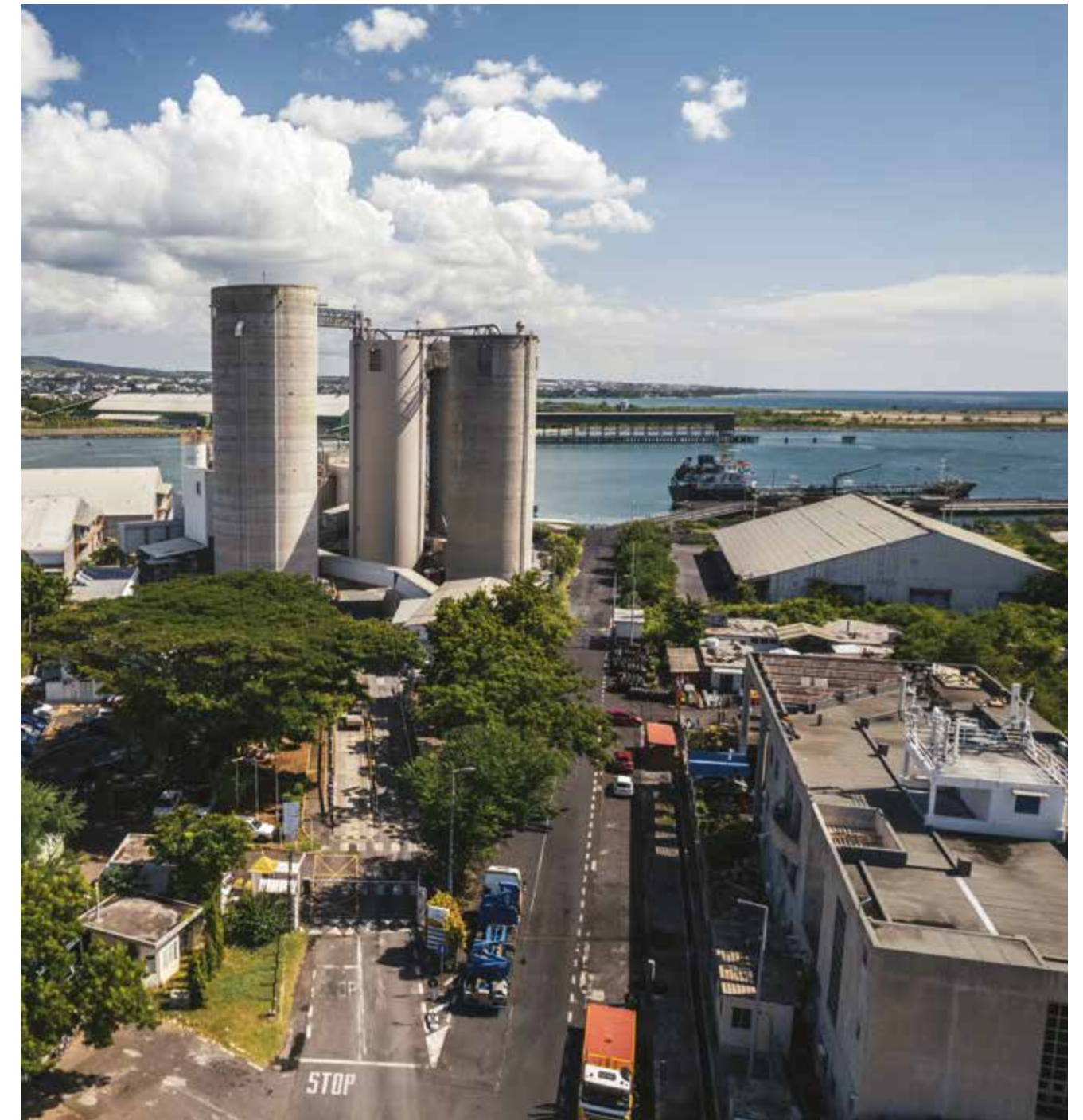
“Breakthroughs won’t happen if we limit ourselves and mould our developmental activities into the frame set by the existing Standard. Revolution can only happen when that Standard is updated in line with technological advances – not the other way around. This technology’s progressing so quickly but the Standard’s lagging behind, locally and globally.”

Low-carbon cement development is critical in terms of mitigating carbon emissions globally. But this can only originate from the industry’s R&D centre, together with support from local government, Cementis’ clients, its investors, and society as a whole. Transformation is a long process; human behaviour is such that there will always be resistance to change or novelty, so changing mindsets is a matter of gradual conversion.



A functional system of solid waste sorting and recycling requires input and commitment from the local society and the Government. “If there are no regulations stating where and how citizens should treat municipal waste, people can dump everywhere without pre-sorting – and that has negative ramifications for recycling. There are certain types of waste materials that are suitable for recycling, but it’s difficult to recycle while those materials are located in the landfill, mixed with other detritus. If more recycling centres could be built for different raw materials (e.g plastic, rubber, and so on), it would benefit the recycling process, and avoid more resources from ending up in the landfill.”

Sustainability is a key attribute for Cementis. Provision of cementitious products to the local and regional construction industries are not without their environmental challenges, but Cementis has committed itself to building and operating an environmentally-sustainable eco-system. It looks like Binyu Zhang will be the one to help steer that R&D ship towards it.







# Analysing Everything Below Ground

Compass spoke to Dr Emilio Saldivar, General Manager of Water Research and Geotechnical Services (GETS), about the companies' operations. He is a civil engineer with a doctorate in soil mechanics with 20 years of experience in the geotechnical field.

"Everything we test, assess or explore in the fields of hydrogeology and geotechnics, happened underground. Drilling's our core activity and the basis for the identification and assessment of the characteristics of the ground profile and groundwater aquifer. You'll see mechanical operations above ground, but you won't know how deep we've gone, nor what's happening," said Emilio.

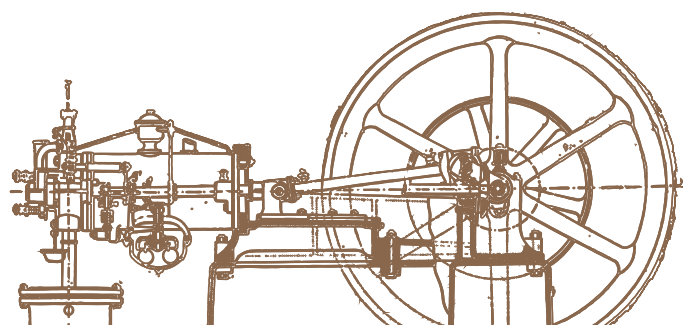
Water Research and GETS deal mainly with the construction industry and groundwater users, and are involved in all types of infrastructure such as dams, buildings, roads, photovoltaic or wind turbine facilities. They develop new boreholes and monitor, repair and service boreholes already in exploitation to optimise their performance.

"We're very proud of our contribution to infrastructural works, and thus to society, in the countries in which we participate," he said. Water Research was established more than 60 years ago, and is the forerunner in the development of Mauritian hydrogeological and geotechnical activities, while GETS was established in 2006 to provide geotechnical and hydrogeological laboratory and in-situ testing and consultancy. The laboratory's analyses are vital when it comes to improving the understanding of the ground performance.

**"The information we generate, in terms of clients making the right decisions, often has far-reaching consequences. For instance, the data gathered might result in relocation of major works, the identification of alternative engineering solutions, or time and cost savings."**

"The most common difficulty that results from working in a volcanic environment is the variability of the ground conditions. Because the rock and soil layers are derived from lava flows occurring at thousands - or millions-of-year intervals, they have variable vertical and horizontal spread, thickness, chemical composition and time-weather-dependent physical status (decomposition). You can be in one area where conditions are a certain way and within a few metres they're different; for instance, if there are areas of waterflow concentration adjacent to impermeable areas." So, for better or worse, the company's work is, essentially, explorative, and sometimes by trial and error.

We're very proud of our contribution to infrastructural works, *and thus to society, in the countries in which we participate*







"The interpretation and idealisation we do of ground variability has a high degree of uncertainty that we need to learn to interpret and manage for clients," said Emilio. "Such uncertainty is often the most difficult thing to clarify to them."

"For water exploitation boreholes, there's only one way to find out the volume of water available at a site, and that's to drill. We can do preliminary geophysical studies and if groundwater's identified you drill - but the volume of water to extract can't be guaranteed. Fortunately, in my 17 years with the company, I can remember only two instances where we discovered absolutely dry boreholes."

**Water Research also works on other Islands in the Indian Ocean, but the similarity ends there; the fact that they are geographical neighbours is irrelevant.**

The Seychellois geology is ancient and made of granite, so it's very strong rock. Rodrigues and Mayotte are similar basaltic islands as Mauritius, and while Reunion is also similar, it's younger, higher and steeper with rocks that are less decomposed and superficial deposits that are different. Madagascar is half-volcanic and half-sedimentary.



Approximately 10 years ago, Water Research drilled a borehole in the Ebony Forest, Chamarel. It recently entered into a reciprocity agreement with the Forest by monitoring and maintaining that borehole, to enable Forestry staff to continue their restoration work. The agreement highlights Water Research's commitment to the environment and its corporate social responsibility. Water Research also undertakes similar sporadic work at a children's home, "because if a social responsibility opportunity presents itself, we're happy to be involved".

Over the last few years, GETS has done a great deal more geotechnical and hydrogeological consultancy work, mainly to provide additional knowledge support to consultants. It examines risks, verifies measures by which those risks are lowered and proposes schemes to ensure that a project is fit for its intended use. "Working collaboratively means the consultants have access to additional knowledge derived from many years exploring the local environment," Emilio said.

Water Research and GETS' reputation is evidenced by some of the nationalities of the consultants with whom they work: Indian, Chinese, German, French, English, Israeli, American, South African, Emiratis, and others. "They're aware that our knowledge and experience is vast and well-founded. Sometimes clients are surprised at the depth and extent of our knowledge, because they don't expect as much from a small Island."





# We've Got You Covered

Profilage Océan Indien is a leading supplier in the Mauritian roof metal sheeting industry which celebrates 30 years in operation this year.

"It's been a fantastic journey so far, and I've no doubt that there's more to come," said Didier Hardy, managing director. The business has grown considerably over the years, going through an important turning point through its acquisition by the Taylor Smith Group in November 2018, as well as being part of the development of the region.



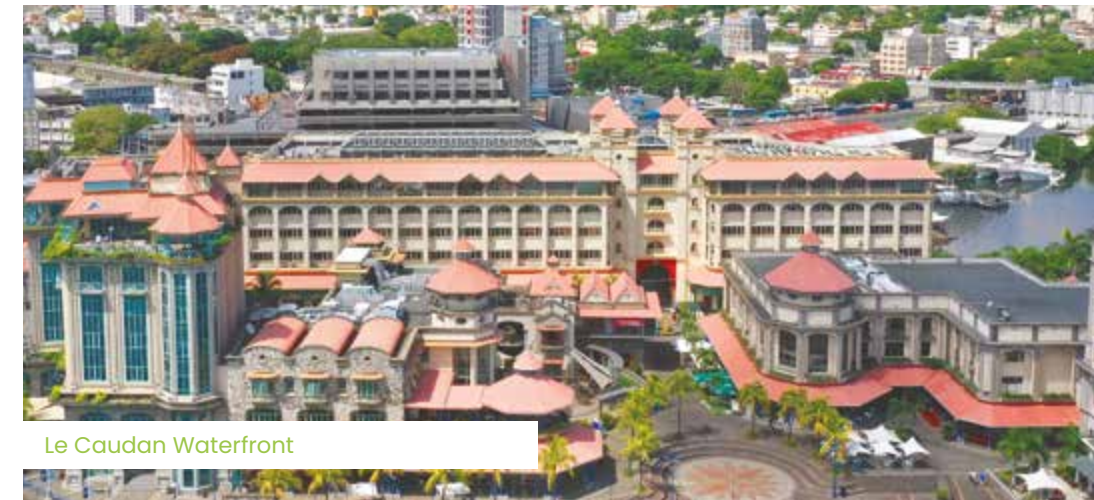
One & Only Le St Geran



Port Louis Waterfront



Green Coast School



Le Caudan Waterfront

The world is embracing and utilising sustainable building materials. Profilage adopted a similar strategic approach several years ago, and makes a conscious effort to ensure that its contractors employ sustainable operations. "We work with large, world-class reputable producers who invest a great deal of capital in their products' R&D, that helps us offer innovative quality products to our own market." For instance, the firm works closely with suppliers to reduce the use of plastic in their export wrappings.

Profilage distributes Colorbond®, a pre-painted metal sheeting from Australian manufacturer Bluescope Steel with the strong coating Zinalume® AM150. (The fact that steel, including metal roof sheeting, is often recycled and thus has several lifespans, makes it somewhat ecologically beneficial and helps the company's sustainability campaign.) Recently Profilage introduced the Thermatech® solar reflectance colour range on the market. Using sophisticated technology, the solar reflectance properties of Colorbond's® technology are boosted on the roof sheeting, helping to reduce the inside daytime temperature. Thermatech® paint's technology helps reflect more of the sun's rays, reducing the radiation effect and the dependence on air-conditioning, protecting the environment and saving money.

Colorbond® sheeting comes in an array of contemporary colours, is robust and extremely durable against the Mauritian solar and saline environments, which makes it a reliably useful product for the entire Indian Ocean territory.

Profilage is the only local manufacturer to supply roof fasteners whose head is of the same colour as the roof sheeting. These fasteners are made by Bremick, an Australian manufacturer which, among other things, developed the unequalled corrosion-resistant B8 coating for screws (which coating was initially developed for the US Navy).

This padding is non-hygroscopic, meaning that it prevents condensation from occurring (so avoiding the growth of mould or bacteria), which makes it ideal for the local climate. It's one of very few insulation products that is non-flammable (with A1 certification from SANS 428) and offers excellent sound reduction. Another complementary roofing product is Starlite insulation.

Ozone depleting potential is a measurement of the extent of damage a chemical can cause to the ozone layer, in comparison to a base figure. "Starlite is an insulator classified as a 'green product' because it has a zero-ozone depleting factor, making it an excellent product both for Profilage and the construction industry. It doesn't age readily nor does it require maintenance. Another advantage is that it offers long-term energy savings - particularly when used under Colorbond® roof sheeting of the Thermatech® range - so it's an extraordinarily marketable product," said Didier.



Didier Hardy



Offering innovative products to the market is an important strategy for Profilage. One such example is the automatic release smoke vents which don't require motorised fan systems, and as the name suggests, naturally expel smoke in case of fire in a building; smoke being the primary cause of human death when there is a fire inside a building. Once the vent comes in contact with a source of heat at a pre-set temperature, its actuators automatically trigger the programmed opening of the blades on roof- or side-mounted vents, and the smoke is evacuated.


**The vents can also be used for natural ventilation through a simple manual or mechanised 'open and close' system and can even be linked to a rain sensor function which closes when necessary.**

Another product that is growing in popularity comes from French manufacturer and developer of safety devices, Vertic, which specialises in advanced solutions against falls from working at heights. This range includes equipment such as crinoline ladders, life lines and railings.

"Customers are increasingly more discerning and eco-savvy about the origin and production circumstances of the products they buy so the evolution of their purchasing decisions has been interesting to track.

Despite what traditional lines might have been, Profilage will always liaise with industry experts to ensure that we continue to offer innovative products produced sustainably and which offer sound advantages when employed by our customers," said Didier.





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# Aqualia Limited

**Aqualia originates from an irrigation company, DDS Irrigation Limited, created back in the 70s. In 1986, DDS Irrigation Limited became Aqualia.**

In 2004, Aqualia seamlessly integrated into the Taylor Smith Group, marking a transformative chapter in its legacy.

Since then, it has diversified its portfolio and developed new products and services related to pipes, enlarging its production capacity and creating its in-house brand, called DURAPIPE.

The company complies with International Standards, such as MS ISO 1452-2, EN 1453-1, MS ISO 4427-2, MS EN 13476-2, EN 12200-1, MS IEC 61386-24, MS IEC 61386-22 and MS IEC 61386-21. The factory is also certified ISO 9001:2015.

It produces a wide range of PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) Durapipe pipes for pressure & non-pressure water usage, ranging from 20 mm to 315 mm, mainly in grades PN 6, 10, 16 and 25 for the pressure pipes. Grade SN 4, 8 and 12 are used to produce pipes for sewage networks. It also produces Durapipe conduits in grades 450N and 750N for buried electrical cables, telecommunication cables, and IT & CCTV cables.

After Production of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene), Durapipe pipes for potable water is an important activity at Aqualia. Besides the MSB certificates, the company holds an "Attestation de Conformité Sanitaire" from world-accredited French laboratory CARSO, for its potable water pipes, ranging from 20 mm to 315 mm diameters.

Potable water pipes are produced in grades PN 10, 16 and 25. Customised orders are also manufactured in grades PN 6, 8 and 12.5.

**HDPE pipes can easily be identified as per their coloured stripes:**

**Potable water pipes: blue stripes**  
**Irrigation pipes: green stripes**  
**Fire fighting pipes: red stripes and**  
**Sewer pipes: orange stripes**

"As a gauge of quality and traceability for our customers, all our Durapipe pipes' specifications are printed on them," said Didier Hardy, CEO of Taylor Smith's Manufacturing Cluster.

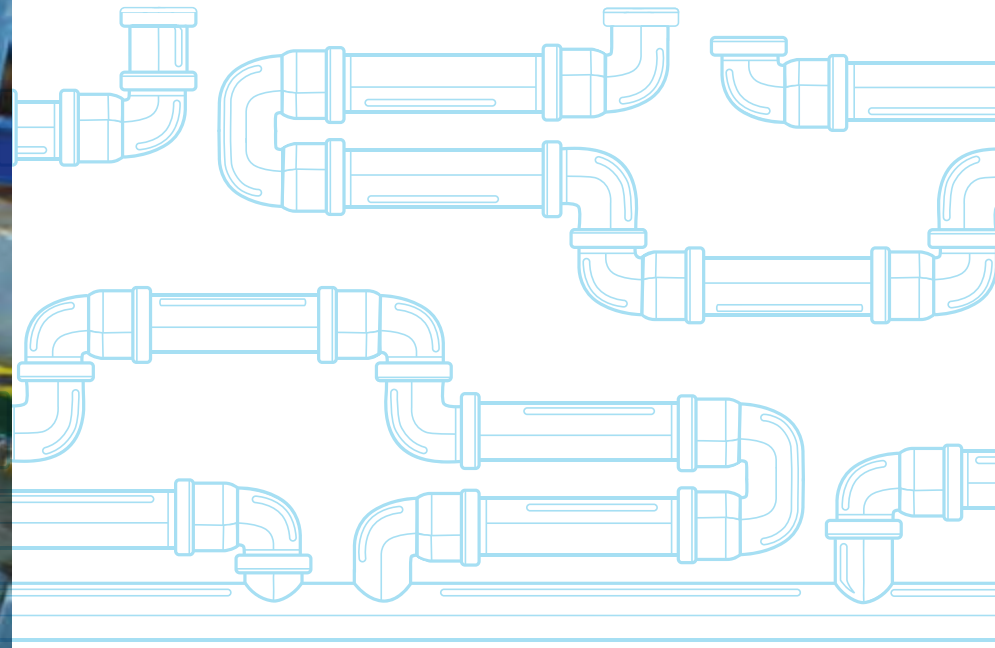
Equally important as pipes are the quality of the HDPE fittings and accessories, mostly the electrofusion and push-fit ones which Aqualia supplies. "The company is proud to represent PLASSON, a world-renowned, specialist manufacturer of HDPE fittings as using reliable fittings ensures water tightness of the pipe's network and the optimum lifetime of the pipes network.

To complete its range of pipes, Aqualia supplies ductile iron (DI) pipes and fittings from TATA (India), Arangul (Turkey) and Ready (Italy).

As a complementary support to its customers in the water industry, Aqualia also supplies specific equipment such as pressure controls and leak detectors to find water leakages from HWM (UK), a specialist supplier in water management systems.







Water leakage noise detectors have great efficacy. Besides avoiding the need to break through roads to search for water leaks in buried pipes, they are highly accurate in locating leaks above the surface, which then send precise pin locations of those leaks to the maintenance teams for rapid intervention.

Aqualia's expansion has naturally lead the company to the development of a strong irrigation pole. Whether drip or pivot irrigation systems from Lindsay Zimmatic (USA) or Jain Irrigation (India) – to name a couple – the Company has a team dedicated to ensuring that turnkey projects are available to small planters and cane producers.

**Aqualia also has a strong footprint in pumps, from domestic and industrial pumps, to food-grade ones, those for fire fighting systems, submersible and sewage pumps. Again, the company has positioned itself as a reliable supplier and installer of those pumps featuring strong international brands such as Lowara (Italy), Flygt (Sweden), Masdaf (Turkey), Vansan (Turkey), and Vortex (Italy).**

Recently, Aqualia has implemented new technologies and solutions to improve the water production and distribution in Mauritius.

Some of these key solutions include containerised filtration plants which the filtration plants are located next to water sources, which then pump and filter the water from those sources before being distributed within a network up to 2500m<sup>3</sup>/day. These filtration plants are installed next to the water sources, pump water from these sources and filter the water before its distribution in the network.

"We are proud to have supplied 17 containerised filtration plants to CWA to-date, and they serve CWA's needs more than adequately," said Pierre Nadal, Aqualia's Technical Manager.

"An online system which monitors water consumption is another technological facility introduced by Aqualia, as our overriding aim is water preservation.

We're committed to sharing knowledge with customers and consultants through regular suppliers' workshops, so that they're kept abreast of local developments in this field."

Aqualia's esteemed clientele includes corporate bodies such as the Central Water Authority, Waste Water Management, Central Electricity Board, Airports of Mauritius, Mauritius Cane Industry Association, Mauritius Telecom, Emtel Ltd, Ascencia Ltd, FAREI, Innodis, Princes Tuna Ltd, Maurilait Ltd, Phoenix Beverages Group, most local builders, most local sugar producers, mechanical and electrical contractors, many hotels and regional customers.

The company recently welcomed François Audibert as Managing Director, while Pierre leads the pump and irrigation activities, and Ajay Lutchman is head of Sales of Durapipe products.

**"We moved our offices to the Riche Terre production site in June 2023, making it more convenient for customers to find all departments in one place," said Didier.**

*We're proud to have supplied CWA with 17 containerised filtration plants, which serve Mauritius well," said Pierre Nadal, Aqualia's Technical Manager*





Clean up activity organised by the team

# Moulding The Environment

Founded in 1991 as a joint venture with Solco of Australia, Duraco has emerged as a leading manufacturer of rotomolded products in Mauritius. With a primary focus on water storage and solar water heaters, Duraco aims to consistently provide innovative, environmentally-friendly solutions to the local market. The company is guided by the Taylor Smith Group's values of respect, innovation and empowerment, and it has achieved remarkable milestones in terms of driving sustainability in the construction sector.

**“Duraco’s journey began with the manufacturing of water tanks to address the pressing need for safe, effective water storage solutions for Mauritius. Simultaneously, under the guidance of Solco Australia, we ventured into the production of solar water heaters, tapping into the country’s abundant solar energy resources,” said Didier Hardy, Managing Director.**



Over the past three decades, the perception of solar water heaters has undergone a significant transformation in Mauritius. What was once regarded as a luxury has now become an essential component in many local households. “The numbers speak for themselves: what began as 100 installations per year has now escalated to an average of 100 per month. The increasing demand for solar water heaters symbolises our commitment as a society to reducing our carbon footprint and protecting the environment.

We take immense pride in being part of this monumental mindshift. As an organisation committed to renewable energy, Duraco has actively contributed to this transition by promoting and installing such heaters. Our involvement signifies our dedication to sustainability, our support of a greener future and our role in shaping a society that prioritises renewable energy.”



In line with its dedication to the well-being of the Mauritian population and the environment, the company took a significant stride in 2000 by introducing a new segment of activity focusing on waste water management. By offering safe and effective disposal of wastewater, Duraco’s objective was to address the critical issue of environmental pollution, with particular focus on the construction sector.

**“As the industry continues to grow and evolve in Mauritius, we strive to go beyond the commercial aspect and actively contribute to the well-being of the population. By understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by this industry, we have designed products which meet the highest standards in terms of quality, durability and sustainability. We improved our factory infrastructure in 2008 to meet customers’ expectations in terms of quality products and timely delivery,” said Didier.**



# In 2015 it introduced a range of sustainable products such as the *rainwater harvesting systems and compost bins*

Duraco's vision is to fight climate change and promote sustainable development in the country. In 2015 it introduced a range of sustainable products such as rainwater harvesting systems and compost bins. Its priority was the introduction of photovoltaic systems in Mauritius, which harness the power of the sun for a greener, more sustainable future. Duraco's first major installation was actually at the Taylor Smith House with a capacity of 75 KWp, paving the way for more than 150 units installed across the Island, to date.

The firm has always connected with the core values of the Taylor Smith Group in terms of innovation and development of various products and services. Looking ahead, Duraco's next challenge will be to introduce wastewater treatment for re-use in its product line.



**“At Duraco, empowerment is not just a word; it’s deeply ingrained in the corporate culture. Commitment to it extends beyond employees as they actively seek opportunities to make a positive impact within the community.”**

**“Recently, we collaborated with Miss Mauritius on her project to empower women to become self-sufficient in growing their own vegetables. Recognising the importance of sustainable agriculture, we contributed to the project by providing rainwater tanks and educating the participants on the benefits of the rainwater harvesting system.”**

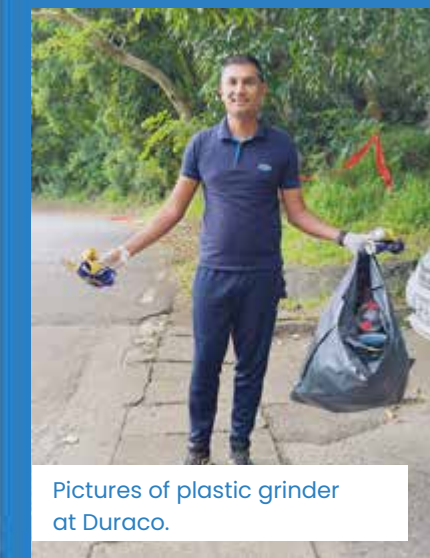
The resellers of Duraco play a crucial role in their success and are an integral part of the family, having received constant training, guidance, and recognition of their efforts. “Through regular workshops, we ensure that our resellers are equipped with the latest product knowledge and sales techniques. By fostering a culture of nurturing and sharing, we aim to create a collaborative environment where resellers can thrive and grow, both personally and professionally. Our resellers come from diverse backgrounds and we value their unique perspectives and experience. By leveraging on that strength, we enhance our ability to better understand the needs of the local population.”

Contractors and plumbers associated with Duraco receive training and guidance to facilitate work and enhance their skills. Sharing industry knowledge equates to raising overall service standards in the market. Empowering individuals and fostering collaboration means creation of a more sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

Respecting the environment is important for the Taylor Smith Group. To promote a circular economy, in July 2022, Duraco invested in a recycling plant that enables it to recycle PE (polyethylene) products, giving them a second life. It was a small, but nonetheless, effective way to get closer to becoming a waste-free company and contribute to reducing the demand on natural resources while also helping to mitigate environmental pollution. This investment reflects Duraco's commitment to sustainable manufacturing.

Duraco simultaneously optimises the recycling of additional waste generated during the manufacturing process. “We also believe in fostering a sustainable mindset within the organisation itself. We actively encourage our employees to adopt more sustainable practices in their personal and professional lives. Through regular forums and challenges, we help raise awareness, inspire behavioural changes and empower employees and resellers, to make environmentally-conscious decisions in their daily lives.”

Duraco's journey in Mauritius reflects its commitment to providing innovative, environmentally-conscious solutions. With a strong focus on water storage, waste water management and clean renewable energy, Duraco has demonstrated its ability to adapt and meet the evolving needs of the Mauritian population. As the company looks ahead, its sights are set firmly on sustainable development, while aiming to reduce the impact of climate change through the introduction of a diverse range of ecofriendly products. The company remains dedicated to creating innovative, sustainable solutions while upholding its responsibility towards the wellbeing of the Mauritian population, and the planet we call home.



Pictures of plastic grinder at Duraco.







# Discover the Vibrant World of Inspiration Stores

## Your One-Stop Shop for Paint Perfection

Since its establishment in 1988, paint manufacturer Sofap has offered a wide range of paints, textured coatings, varnishes and accessories. If you're seeking to transform your space with a splash of colour, look no further than Inspiration Stores. Scattered nationwide across our beautiful Island, these specialised shops are revolutionising the way individuals and paint contractors approach their projects. Offering a unique blend of high-quality products and expert advice, Inspiration Stores are the ultimate destination for all your painting needs.

## A Palette of Possibilities

At Inspiration Stores, you'll find an extensive selection of paints, from classic hues to trendy textured shades that keep up with the latest design trends. Whether you're refreshing a single room or embarking on a large-scale renovation, our shelves are stocked with what you need. We guarantee durability, coverage, and stunning finishes. From matte to gloss, interior to exterior, we have every finish and formulation you could dream of. Our commitment to quality and service remains unwavering, no matter which store you visit.



## Tools and Accessories Galore

But we're more than just paint. Understanding that a perfect paint job requires more than just the right colour, Inspiration Stores offer a comprehensive range of painting tools and accessories. From brushes and rollers to solvents and DIY spray paints, we ensure you're equipped with everything needed for a smooth, professional-grade application.



## Expert Guidance at Your Fingertips

Navigating the world of paint can be daunting, especially with the myriad of choices available. That's where our in-store experts come in. Passionate about colour and design, our staff are always on hand to offer personalised advice. Whether you need help selecting the perfect shade, understanding the best paint for your surface, or tips on application techniques, our knowledgeable team is dedicated to helping you achieve your vision.

Bulk purchasing options and dedicated contractor support ensure that projects run smoothly and efficiently.

We understand the demands of the trade and strive to be a reliable partner in every project, big or small.

Inspiration Stores are more than just places to buy paint; they're hubs of creativity and support. Whether you're a homeowner looking to refresh your living space or a contractor aiming for perfection in your projects, we invite you to discover the difference that true inspiration can make.

Visit your nearest Inspiration Store today and let's create something beautiful together.





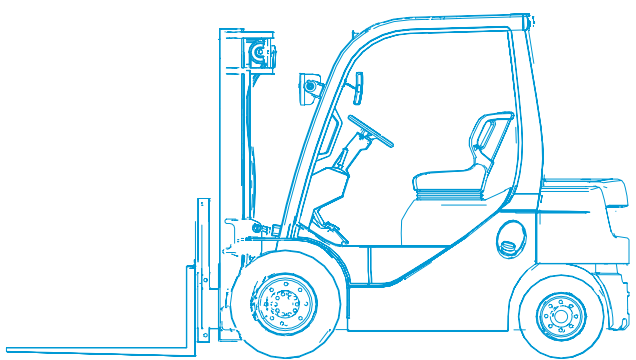
# Taylor Smith Equipment

In the world of industrial operations, having access to the right equipment can be the difference between success and failure. Companies often find themselves in need of specialised machinery and tools for specific projects as well as for daily operations. This is where industrial equipment rental companies come into play, providing essential resources without the burden of ownership.

**Taylor Smith equipment, focusing on being a solution provider to its clients and delivering exceptional after-sales services.**

Founded in 2017, Taylor Smith Equipment has quickly made a name for itself in the industrial equipment rental sector. Based in Port Louis, it has grown exponentially, serving a diverse clientele across various sectors; its unwavering commitment to being more than just a rental service provider setting it apart from its competitors.

Taylor Smith Equipment sees itself as a partner in its clients' success; understanding that they often face complex challenges that extend beyond the need for machinery. Whether it's recommending the most suitable equipment for a specific task or helping clients optimise their operations, Taylor Smith Equipment takes a consultative approach. Its team of experts works closely with clients to understand their unique requirements, offering tailored solutions that go beyond the rental of equipment.



What sets Taylor Smith Equipment apart from its peers is its *dedication to after-sales services*

One of Taylor Smith Equipment's key strengths is its range of products and its well-maintained equipment inventory. The most sought-after product for short term rentals is the articulated boom lift, and for long-term, it's the forklift. Its equipment is regularly serviced and updated to meet the highest safety and performance standards.

What sets Taylor Smith Equipment apart from its peers is its dedication to after-sales services. It understands that renting equipment is only the beginning of the relationship with a client. It provides comprehensive maintenance and repair services, minimising downtime and ensuring that the equipment remains in peak condition throughout the rental period and/or following the sale of equipment.

**Taylor Smith Equipment is also committed to environmental sustainability.**

It regularly updates its fleet to include more energy-efficient and eco-friendly equipment options such as the electrical forklifts. This not only helps reduce the carbon footprint of its clients' projects but also demonstrates Taylor Smith Equipment's dedication to corporate social responsibility.

As the company continues to grow and expand its services, it is clear that they are on a mission to redefine the industrial equipment rental experience. With their customer-centric approach and unwavering commitment to excellence, Taylor Smith Equipment is poised to be a trusted partner for companies in need of industrial equipment solutions.





# Get to Welcome

There is immense pride from the staff of Oceangoers in showcasing the extraordinary journey of a company which is the exclusive manning services hiring partner of MSC Cruises and Explora Journeys in Mauritius.

**The company has made it its mission to make a difference in the local job market and contribute positively to the economy. Since its inception in 2018, the team has grown from 3 to 14 and its unwavering commitment to excellence and providing an unparalleled recruitment service has earned it industry-wide recognition and respect.**



“Given the shared values and principles between the MSC family and the Taylor Smith Group, we are delighted to reaffirm and extend this partnership by helping with the recruitment of Mauritian citizens to go and work on board their magnificent cruise ships,” expressed **Samantha Chumanlall**, General Manager

Through its collaboration with MSC and other partners, Oceangoers has become a force to be reckoned with as it opens doors to numerous job opportunities for Mauritian citizens.

**“We purposely engender an environment of equality, ensuring that talent is recognised and nurtured, regardless of societal factors,” said Samantha.**

“That has led to a far-reaching impact, creating a more diverse and inclusive job market on the Island.”

The organisation’s ability to evolve and adapt to changing market dynamics has been instrumental in its continued success. By staying at the forefront of the industry, Oceangoers has become a trusted partner for both employers and job-seekers, ensuring that the right talent finds its rightful place in the cruise ship job market.

The criteria for employability include a minimum of one year’s experience for entry-level jobs, onboard experience, fluency in English (fluency in other languages is certainly advantageous),

and having a go-to attitude, passion, motivation and being well-groomed are keenly sought-after characteristics.

Onboard positions include those affiliated to the hospitality industry, such as housekeeping, bar, dining, spa services, entertainment, gallery, onboard revenue (for shop employees or cruise consultants), and guest services. Experience in four- or five-star hotels is a great advantage for onboard posts, but for positions where candidates lack experience, Oceangoers guides them as to how to gain working knowledge in order to re-apply at a later date.





**“Newly-hired candidates receive pre-embarkation training customised according to each ship (both theoretical and practical), which is prepared exclusively by MSC Cruises so that all crew members are wholly prepared. Due to candidates working in these core departments, it’s imperative that new hires are exposed to the MSC requirements and to working onboard a ship.”**



Transparency has always been a guiding principle in Oceangoers’ activities, both in its partnership with MSC and its interactions with candidates. This commitment not only bolsters our working relationship but also fosters an environment of mutual respect and comprehension. Likewise, in our engagements with prospective applicants, Oceangoers adheres to a policy of forthright and unambiguous communication. We believe in openly discussing both the strengths and challenges associated with new positions, empowering newly-recruited individuals with comprehensive information that allows them to make informed decisions and embark on their professional journeys with confidence.



“Employment within the cruise ship industry is highly sought after among Mauritian candidates, representing a coveted opportunity within the local hospitality sector. Mauritius, known for its status as a prominent holiday destination, attracts a significant number of individuals who aspire to join our ranks, seeking a unique avenue for professional growth, the chance to forge new connections, and, of course, the opportunity to explore different parts of the world.”

To date, approximately 3,200 Mauritian individuals have contributed their skills and expertise aboard MSC cruise ships, with a current workforce of 1,800 individuals actively employed by the company. This enduring relationship underscores both the appeal of cruise ship employment within the Mauritian context and the value that these talented individuals bring to the organisation.



MSC Cruises was the first cruise company to set sail in early- to mid-2020 post-Covid, with approximately 200 Mauritian staff on board. MSC Cruises holds a prominent position within the cruise industry, distinguished as one of the largest cruise brands globally.

**“The values of MSC resonate within Oceangoers, the Taylor Smith Group and MSC Cruise Liners because we understand that we must do more than simply create jobs. Our quest for growth and excellence is unyielding: we don’t want to simply reach milestones but to surpass them continually using innovative ways to create even more job opportunities for the people of Mauritius.”**

Some of the MSC ships that have entered Mauritian ports include the MSC Orchestra, MSC Sinfonia and the MSC Splendida.





# Meeting Large-Scale Bunkering Requirements

The work of Oceanis Limited, Oceanis Bunkering, MMCO, Fuelogic and AEL DDS is complementary and involves the transport, logistics, supply chain and storage of petroleum products.

“Oceanis is a leading actor in bunker fuels in Mauritius and our aim is to be the reference point for the Indian Ocean region. The proud owner of three tankers, Oceanis offers ship-to-ship and pipeline deliveries to vessels anchored at quay or within limits of the port of Port Louis.

**“We were the first Mauritian company to own oil tankers, and those within our fleet include the MT Elise (with a cargo capacity of 700 metric tonnes), the MT Sarah (1700 metric tonnes) and the MT Emily (9000 metric tonnes). Our bunkering service is strengthened by the fact that we have access to a petroleum products’ tank farm, MMCO Storage, built to specific requirements of the petroleum industry, which stores the bunker safely.”**

Within our workforce handling bunker operations, we boast a team of highly experienced and certified personnel equipped with comprehensive knowledge in petroleum logistics safety and distribution. Managing products of such nature demands unwavering care and vigilance at all times. To ensure the highest standards of safety, rigorous policies and procedures are diligently enforced, mitigating the risk of fire accidents or oil spills.

The on-the-ground transportation of fuel falls under the purview of AEL DDS, a company with professional haulage status. Since 1972, AEL DDS has been safely and punctually transporting petroleum products and holds the exclusive physical distribution rights for petrol fuels from renowned oil majors such as VIVO (Shell), Total, and Engen Petroleum (Mauritius). The company plays a pivotal role in maintaining an uninterrupted fuel supply in Rodrigues, where it manages a bulk fuel and LPG gas depot.



Additionally, AEL DDS provides refuelling services to Air Mauritius aircraft at Sir Gaëtan Duval Airport and oversees the JET A1 fuel depot in Rodrigues through its sister company, AEL DDS Rod.

The hazardous nature of petroleum products necessitates AEL’s commitment to sustainability in its operations. Annual defensive driving training for tanker drivers is organised to instil safer and more ecological driving techniques. As part of the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy to minimise environmental impact, exterior lights have been replaced with photovoltaic spotlights, and auditing processes are now digitised through tablets, significantly reducing paper usage. Moreover, the used oil from trucks is treated and separated from water through an oil-water separator at our premises. The collected used oil is handed over to an accredited company in Mauritius for recycling, while the treated water is stored in tanks and utilised for cleaning and washing trucks.

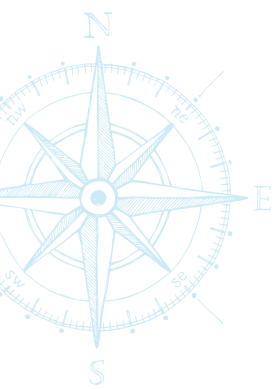
Fuelogic, our versatile company, engages in marketing and transporting petroleum products with varying loads ranging from 5000 to 37000 litres within Mauritius. In Rodrigues, Fuelogic transports JET A1 product from port to depot, operates a mobile filling station, and manages three retail fuel service stations. The company also provides side loader vehicle services on the Island. Fuelogic serves as the commercial operator and liaison between Oceanis, Oceanis Bunkering, and MMCO for all bunker fuels and storage transactions.

“The work undertaken by our companies to ensure safe, reliable, and prompt bunker deliveries is vital to the Mauritian maritime industry. It is the unwavering dedication of our staff—from those on the ground to crews, administrators, and management—that ensures the continuous maintenance of supply lines, 24 hours a day.”

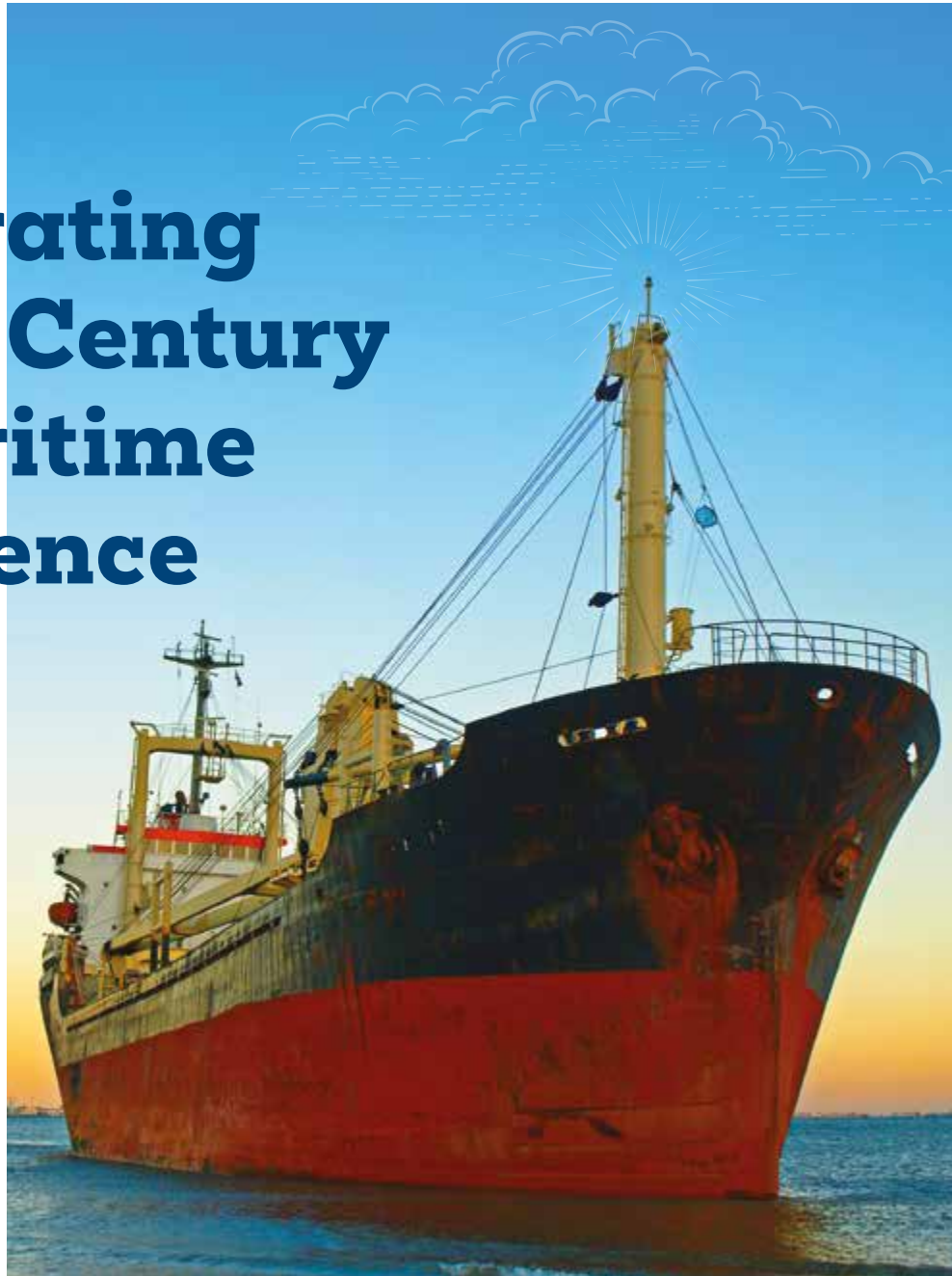
Oceanis is a leading actor in bunker fuels in Mauritius whose aim is to be the *reference point for the Indian Ocean region*







# Celebrating over a Century of Maritime Excellence



**For over a century, the Taylor Smith Shipyard has stood as a beacon of maritime excellence, a testament to perseverance, innovation, and unwavering dedication to the seas.**

Established in 1908, Taylor Smith Co has always been an integral part of the Mauritian maritime industry. Later changing its name to Taylor Smith Shipyard, today it continues to play a pivotal role in ship repair, maintenance and salvage operations. Nestled in Quay D, Port Louis, our shipyard has become synonymous with quality craftsmanship and reliability, earning the trust of shipowners, operators, and captains from around the globe.



At the heart of our operations lie two dry docks, the backbone of our shipyard. These formidable structures have witnessed the transformation of countless vessels, from humble fishing boats to mighty ships. With meticulous attention to detail and a skilled workforce, we have consistently delivered exceptional results, ensuring the seaworthiness and longevity of every ship that graces our docks.

**Moreover, our commitment to innovation has propelled us to embrace cutting-edge technologies and practices.**

The addition of a 200-tonne capacity travel lift, the repair quays and the various workshops serve as a testament to our forward-thinking approach, allowing us to efficiently handle vessels of various sizes with precision and care.

"In line with our commitment to meeting market demands, we have diversified our service portfolio to encompass a comprehensive array of offerings," remarked Thierry Betuel, the CEO of Taylor Smith's Marine Cluster. "In addition to our traditional expertise in repairs and maintenance, we now also offer a diversity of services including diving and barge services, high precision machining and heavy duty lifting equipment."

By consolidating a diverse range of services under one roof, we are able to give full satisfaction to our clients," continued Thierry. "Our primary focus remains serving the fishing industry, catering to a diverse clientele hailing from Taiwan, China, Korea, Indonesia, France, Japan, and New Zealand. Furthermore, we are proud to extend our services to the regional market and support the commercial and leisure sectors in Seychelles and Mauritius."

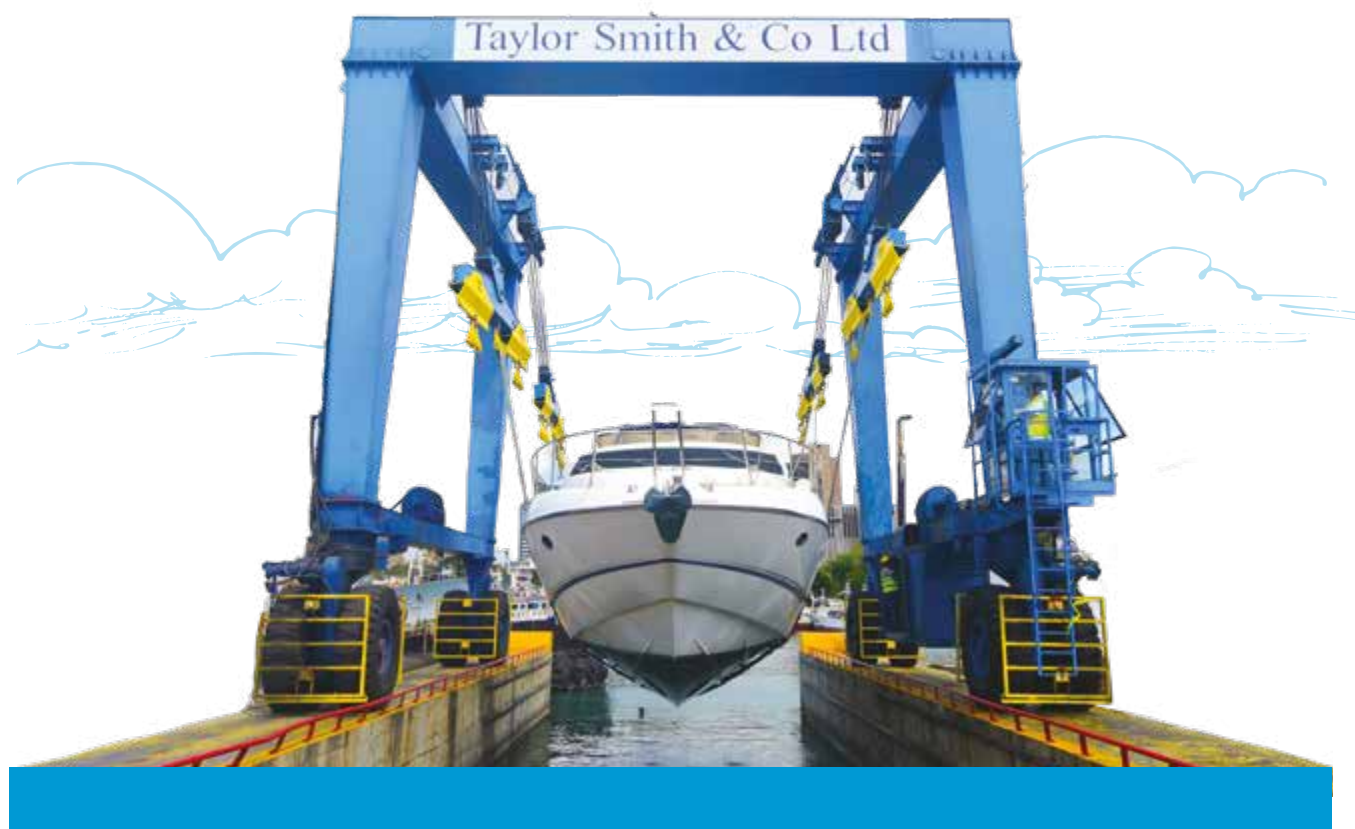
Looking to the future, the Taylor Smith Shipyard remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, innovation, and service. With over a century of experience as our guiding light, we set sail into the next chapter of our story, ready to embrace new challenges, seize new opportunities, and continue our legacy of maritime excellence for even more generations to come.

In line  
with our  
commitment to  
meeting market  
demands, we  
have diversified  
our service  
portfolio to  
*encompass a  
comprehensive  
array of  
offerings*



**Thierry Betuel, CEO of Taylor Smith's Marine Cluster**





## One-Stop Boat Shop

Our focus involves *designing luxury boats tailored to clients' needs and desires.*

The Taylor Smith Boatyard stands as a comprehensive destination for boat-building, offering specialised and expert guidance throughout the entire process, from conception to the final product. While ship-building is an ancient art with a history spanning millennia, the Taylor Smith Boatyard, though not as old, has firmly established itself as an integral part of the Mauritian naval engineering industry.

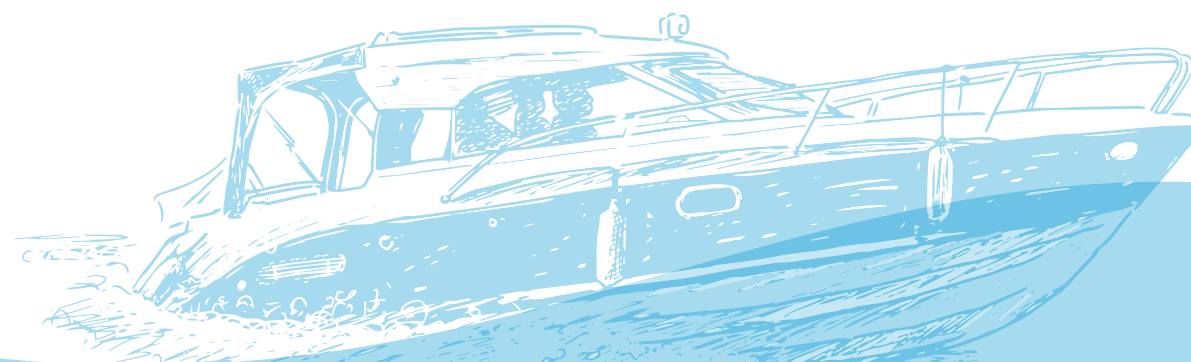
**Marc Lagane, the General Manager at the Boatyard, highlights the diverse range of services provided by the business. “Our focus involves designing luxury boats tailored to clients’ needs and desires—a crucial service for the local shipping industry. Additionally, we excel in the repair, maintenance, and restoration of marine vessels, extending these services to our established base in the Seychelles.”**

Upon confirmation of an order, the Boatyard takes charge of the entire process, encompassing design, plug and mould fabrication, vessel construction, and fibreglass and stainless-steel fabrication. Marc states, “We handle plumbing and electrical work, engine installation and maintenance, steering system design and installation, painting, onboard electronics, refrigeration requirements, upholstery, and final delivery.”

The fully-equipped yard features a self-propelled hydraulic trailer designed for the secure internal movement of boats. Capable of lifting boats 25m high and 8.5m wide, with a maximum draft of 2.2m, the yard can accommodate up to 50 vessels simultaneously. It also boasts a 175-tonne travel lift accessible to both private and commercial vessels, including catamarans, monohulls, trimarans, and super yachts.

Innovation is a cornerstone of the Boatyard’s business, as it strives to introduce groundbreaking designs and amenities to stay ahead in the industry. Marc recounts a notable achievement: “A few years ago, our team designed a vessel capable of navigating the shallow lagoons around the island, focusing on economic efficiency and easy maintenance. This effort resulted in a new generation of power catamaran hull—a vessel capable of low-speed travel and hovering at higher speeds when necessary. The design incorporates a semi-displacement hull with a tunnel hull system, enabling the boat to navigate shallow waters without risking damage to the running gear.”

As a pioneer in the maritime industry, Taylor Smith’s Boatyard, situated within the Port Louis harbour, has evolved over its 20-year history. While the company’s fleet of services has expanded, each offering is backed by more than a century of experience in dry-docking, boat repairs, and maintenance.





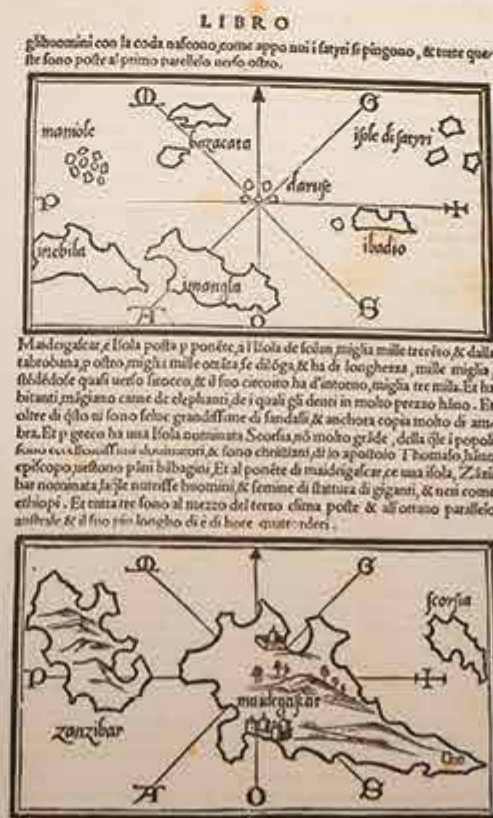
# A Map Collection

The backbone of the Taylor Smith Group is steeped in historical legacy and its origins can be traced back to its establishment in 1865. From its pioneering founders to its current directors, Taylor Smith's journey is captured in an extensive collection of artefacts and mementos cultivated over the years. Today these are displayed in its boardroom, recreating somewhat of a family museum.

A striking illustration of Taylor Smith's exceptional historical narrative is evident by the possession of a singular treasure: the rare 1711 John Thornton map of Mauritius. Previously owned by the late Derek Taylor, Shareholder and Director of the Group, this invaluable artefact was prominently showcased in the third-floor museum at the Company's headquarters. It should be noted that John Thornton was a luminary seventeenth-century chart-maker, who garnered acclaim for supplying navigational insights, charts, and maritime atlases to distinguished figures such as Samuel Pepys, the renowned British Royal Navy administrator and Chief Secretary of the Admiralty.

**“Our cherished collection of maps started with the acquisition of the significant John Thornton piece, followed by others. Fast-forward several years, and Taylor Smith made a noteworthy decision to acquire a private collection comprising 93 additional maps in 2021. The focus of this collection revolves predominantly around Mauritius, but also encompasses select maps of the Indian Ocean, Rodrigues, Réunion, Madagascar, and the Seychelles,”** noted Dominique Vaudin, Director of Corporate Affairs for the Group.

Intriguingly, all 93 maps within the collection boast an assured authenticity, each being an original print crafted around the stipulated date indicated on the respective rendering. The abundance of choices presented by this diverse array of maps precludes any definitive designation of ‘rarest’ or ‘most exquisite’. Admiration of such exquisite craftsmanship, is, after all, often influenced by personal fondness. “Among the notable maps, the oldest is a diminutive 1528 Benedetto Bordone chart, while the crown jewel could arguably be the this 1596 Jan Huygen van Linschoten map of the Indian Ocean, adorning the office of CEO Colin Taylor.”



Identifying the rarest map becomes a challenge in the presence of several scarce specimens, yet the 1814 William Faden / Lislet Geoffroy map could potentially claim that distinction.

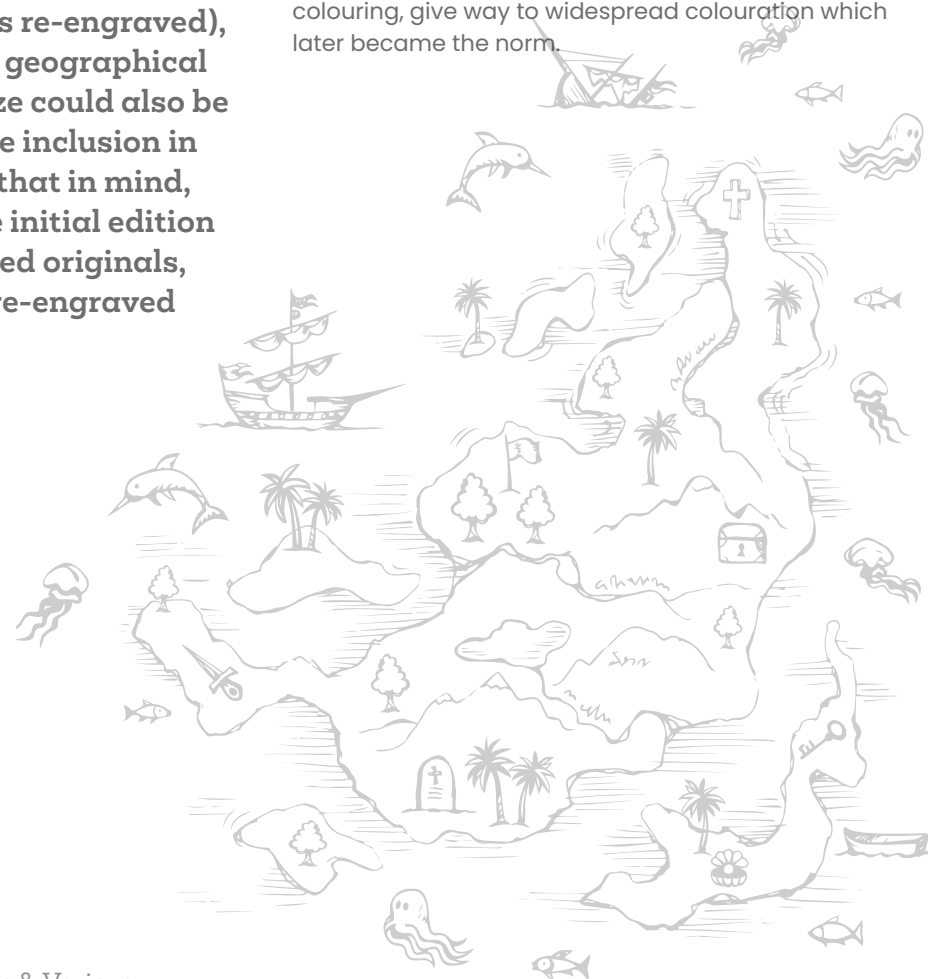
For sheer ornateness, the 1763 Nicolas Bellin map certainly deserves attention, while the epitome of elegance might well be attributed to the 1667 Pieter Goos chart.





Approximately 55 meticulously framed maps embellish the environs of Taylor Smith House, while the remaining pieces live within the museum. Adjacent to each map is an inscription detailing its title, dimensions, year of origin, place of production, and the name of the cartographer. Additionally, references to mentions in Pipo Lenoir's esteemed work, *A Journey Through Old Maps* are provided when applicable. The manuscript charts featured in Lenoir's book were sourced from La Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

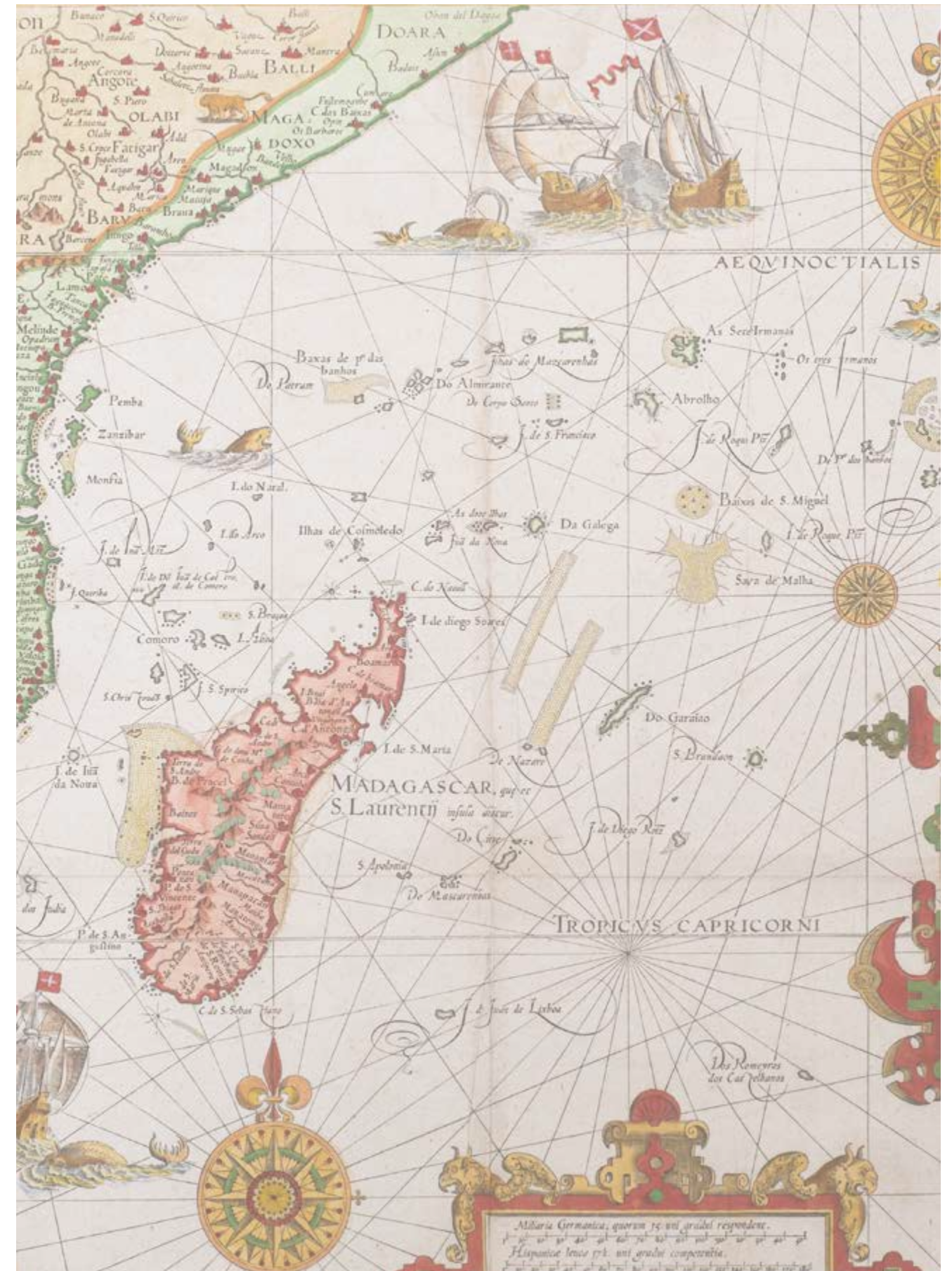
**Tracing the cartographic history of yesteryear, the norm dictated that engraved maps underwent multiple editions. A single copper plate facilitated repeated printing (albeit limited to around 1000 prints unless re-engraved), with potential updates in geographical information. The plate size could also be modified to accommodate inclusion in books or atlases, so with that in mind, both a 1715 print and the initial edition from 1705 are both deemed originals, if derived from the same re-engraved copper plate.**



Enquiries about the quantum of Taylor Smith's map editions often encounter challenges in light of historical record-keeping practices by publishers.

Expert consensus estimates that eighteenth-century popular atlas production likely produced approximately 2000 editions, with the prior century generating between 1000 and 1500 editions. This tally is further compounded by the relatively modest survival rate of these historical volumes, estimated at a mere 8 to 20 percent. Among the limited existing copies that occasionally enter the market, the bulk is preserved within academic institutions, libraries, and private collections.

Historically, maps were predominantly rendered in black and white. Select instances saw post-printing colouration, referred to as original or contemporary colouring, give way to widespread colouration which later became the norm.







# Preserving History: A Journey Through the Taylor Smith Museum

In the heart of the bustling port, nestled among the Taylor Smith maritime activities, there exists a hidden gem that offers a unique glimpse into the rich history of the Taylor Smith Group and the related port activities.

**The 'Company Museum', carefully curated by the late Derek Taylor, is a testament to the enduring legacy of a family business spanning over a century.**

This museum is a treasure trove of artefacts, photographs, and memorabilia that tell the captivating story of the family dating back a hundred years.

The roots of the Family Company Museum can be traced back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when Alexander Taylor, one of the founders of the family business, arrived in Mauritius as a ship carpenter. Joining force with the Smith brothers, George and Jack, they set up a marine yard near Quay D and took on the management of the Stevenson Dry Dock in 1914. What began as a small boat yard evolved into a very diversified enterprise that played an important role in shaping the local port's history.



**Over the years, the family's dedication to the business bore fruit, leading to substantial growth.**

The idea for the Family Company Museum was borne of a desire to preserve the family's rich history and the maritime heritage of the region. The chairman, with a deep passion for history and a commitment to the company's legacy, spearheaded the project. What started as a modest collection of old documents, photographs, and artefacts soon blossomed into an interesting museum that captures the essence of the past.

Visitors to the museum are immediately transported back in time as they step through its doors. It showcases a spectacular lithographic representation of the port designed by Mauritian artist Pierre Thuillier and on it, key figures, dates, and events are chronicled, detailing the journey of the Taylor Smith Group from day one to now. Each corner of the museum is a carefully curated time capsule, providing a vivid snapshot of the past.

In the museum one can see antique ledgers, handwritten post cards and an old desk used by Alexander Taylor's son, Percy, with pens and photographs dating back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A touch of humour can be seen in Percy Taylor's pilot's license, dated 1932. On it, in response to the statement of 'what types of flying machines he was licenced to fly', was the answer "All types"!

The museum displays vintage navigation equipment owned and used by the family and others who worked for the company. On the marine chart table, which was used on ships for making and storing nautical charts, sits a sextant that was used by Percy Taylor from 1921 to 1927, and then by Derek Taylor from 1952 to 1960, during the father's and son's years in the British Merchant Navy. Also on display is a scale model of a steam engine which was built by George Smith during his apprenticeship in 1910 as part of his final assignment to qualify as an engineer. Proudly at the entrance is the model ship of the MB Investigator built by Taylor Smith and Co in 1968. Next to it is the manual clock-in card machine used by the Taylor Smith employees before the advent of computerisation.



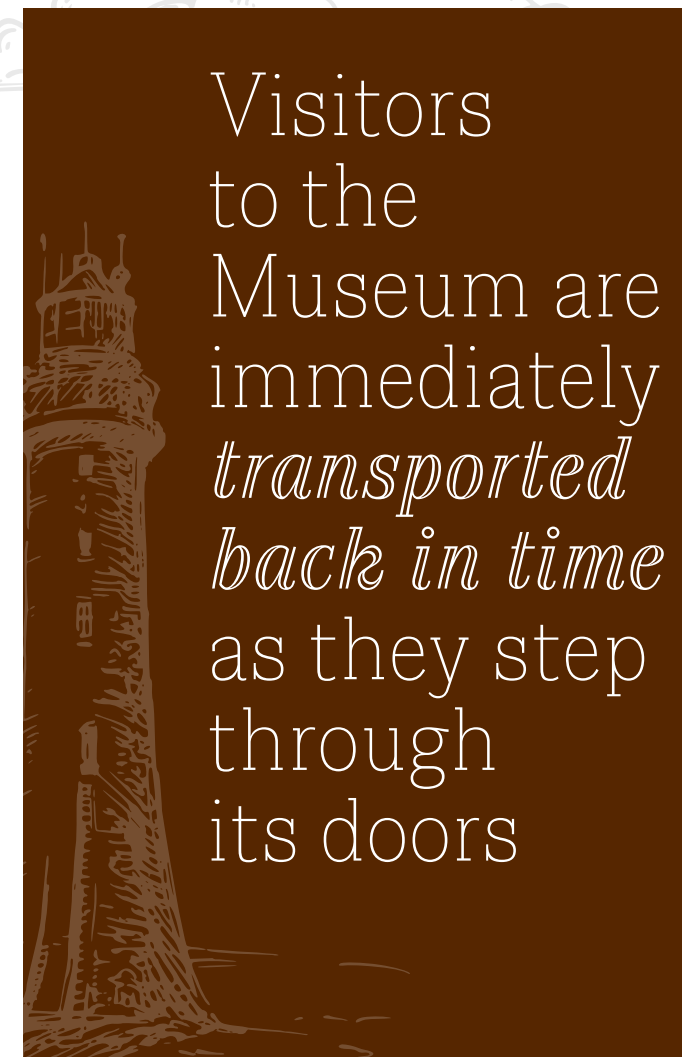




**You'll also see a magnificent, heavy, antique diving suit which was air-powered by pumps manually operated by two people. (No doubt many of us will remember Tintin's dive with Captain Haddock and the two Thom(p)sons at the pumps!)**

The diving pumps are still in perfect condition, patented and manufactured by Siebe Gorman, a British company founded in the early 1800s, which manufactured commercial diving and breathing equipment. The original dive suit displayed in the museum was, in fact, used by the Taylor Smith divers. "Interestingly, in France, divers who used such suits were named 'heavy feet' because of the lead boot soles which weighed many kilograms."

Two display cabinets occupy the centre of the room. In one is a very rare map of Mauritius drawn up by famed cartographer John Thornton in 1711, while the other contains a full collection of the Mauritian 'Goddess' stamps, which belonged to Derek Taylor, a keen stamp collector. Near them, is the barometer which was used to measure the drop in atmospheric pressure during Cyclone Carol in 1960. The ink of the line stops at the bottom of the roll of paper where its graduation limit goes no further than 945 millibars (hectopascals). That year, it reached a record 942 millibars in the East of the Island, and as a result, 42 Mauritians lost their lives in the Cyclone.



**This treasure trove is not just a repository of artefacts but a living testament to the resilience and vision of a family that has played a vital role in the port's history.**

The chairman's dedication to preserving this heritage ensures that future generations can appreciate the sacrifices, innovations, and hard work that have shaped the port into what it is today.

We also have interesting pictures of the Port Louis Granary that hang on one of the walls. During the second world war, the granary was camouflaged to confuse enemy naval ships, making it more difficult to identify. The camouflage was supervised by the French artist Mr Menardo who was in Mauritius at the time. He eventually retired on the island and died in Curepipe in 1977. The two pictures depict the granary with and without camouflage proving the remarkable job done at the time.

Another painting hanging in the museum is that of Kenneth Taylor, Duncan's son, who was a pilot on an aircraft carrier. Next to the painting is an amazing photograph capturing the moment when Kenneth was being rescued in the North Sea, after his plane was hit by enemy fire. Kenneth was, however, later killed, the aircraft carrier on which he was serving, was torpedoed and sank during a storm off the coast of Gibraltar, in 1942.

The Taylor Smith Museum is a shining example of how a family's dedication to its business and its community can result in a rich and informative cultural institution. As visitors walk through the museum, they not only gain insight into the evolution of port activities but also witness the enduring legacy of a family's commitment to its roots. It stands as a reminder that the stories of the past continue to shape the present, and inspire the future.





# Creating Happiness Through Colour

Sofap is a paint manufacturer that works closely with NGOs and communities around Mauritius. Amongst others it is supporting local artists to create a 'novel evolution of happiness' through colour.

Sofap recently initiated a creative project entitled The Sofap Evolving Wall, based in Port Louis. This came about when The Third Dot, a Mauritian artistic platform which promotes collaborations between art, culture and sustainable opportunities, asked Sofap to join with it in promoting street art.

**“The Evolving Wall is an initiative in the Victoria Urban Terminal (VUT) whose focus is street art. It offers urban artists, accustomed to taking over the streets, a unique setting to display their work at the crossroads of the bus departures and métro exit by the Caudan Waterfront,” said Eric Adam, Sofap’s Managing Director.**



**“The project is based on the principle of ephemerality as the fundamental characteristic of street art. As such, every three months, one particular artist takes over the wall, and a new production covers the previous one. Different forms of creativity and workmanship displayed to hundreds of commuters, all day every day, translate into creating an atmosphere of happiness and novelty in the community.”**

As the main driver and contributor to the Sofap Evolving Wall campaign, the company manages the 'Call for Proposal' to evaluate and choose which artists will become part of the project. This is decided by a jury composed of Sofap, the Victoria Urban Terminal and The Third Dot. Once an artist is chosen, Sofap donates the necessary paint and accessories required, and pays a fee to each artist. And in a move that helps endorse the artist further, Sofap also promotes that person and his / her work through social media messages.

Previous artists who have been involved in the project include Emilien Jubeau, who was the first to take over the ephemeral wall in September 2022. Melisa, A.Fricain and Mr Azenor Creations then followed every three months, while the next two artists were chosen in the Call for Proposals at the beginning of 2023.

**“We’re going to continue our collaboration with the Victoria Urban Terminal and The Third Dot,” said Eric.**

“Allowing artists to express themselves using our paint is fulfilling for them and gives passers-by a unique look at evolving art that they can contemplate every time they pass through the Terminal.”







# Zero Waste Objective

Sofap, the country's leading paint manufacturer, has adopted a sustainable development strategy to ensure that the evolution of its business brings about a positive contribution to society and the environment. Sofap takes sustainability seriously, having adopted the ambitious goal of becoming a zero-waste company by the end of 2023. *Compass* spoke to managing director Eric Adam about its zero-waste progress.

**“Any business has to strike the right balance between its financial, social and environmental performance. Financial performance shouldn’t be achieved at the expense of the environment nor of the well-being of employees and society at large,” he said.**

Sofap’s sustainability initiative is based on the United Nations’ framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “In 2019 we decided to adopt the UN Framework for sustainable development, and we selected five of the UN’s SDGs as priorities for Sofap. The decision to adopt that Framework was motivated by the necessity to provide a structure and a systematic approach in our journey towards sustainability. We chose those which we considered most relevant to our business, with a special focus on SDG 12 because we are manufacturers.”

The UN’s SDG Framework was established and adopted by all UN member states as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, into the future. The structure has since been adopted by many organisations worldwide in their efforts towards sustainable development.

Because Sofap is a manufacturing business, it faces environmental issues arising from its production processes: particularly the generation of industrial waste, and consumption of fossil-based energy.



To deal with these problems, it conducted a waste audit to determine precisely the different types of waste being generated by its activities, and the related volumes. It then explored ways of reducing that waste generation at source wherever possible, sometimes with the help of its suppliers.

“Thereafter we identified recycling options for waste that could not be eliminated but where there were possibilities of recycling or upcycling them to make other useful products. We established collaborations with recyclers and upcyclers as well as artisans who were willing to use some of our waste to make artisanal products.

**“To date, we have reduced the waste disposed to landfill by 94.7% compared to 2018 (which was our base year). And as far as effluents are concerned, a review of our production and washing processes helped us achieved a 66.7% reduction,” said Eric.**

Over the years Sofap’s R&D team has been working continuously to improve the environmental performance of its products by incorporating new raw materials that are safer for the environment, and for human health. “This is an ongoing focus of R&D when you look at the environmental performance of products in the coatings’ industry worldwide. We keep abreast of any developments and implement changes in our formulations accordingly.”

Now that Sofap has reached its zero-waste target, its next major challenge is to reduce its carbon footprint. Although achieving carbon footprint neutrality would be difficult for a manufacturing business like Sofap because it imports all its raw materials, it will aim to significantly reduce its footprint by, amongst other things, setting objectives towards reducing its energy and fossil fuel consumption. “To do this, we first have to conduct a Carbon Footprint Audit with the help of a consultant, then set ourselves reduction objectives,” said Eric.

The last SDG promulgated by the UN is ‘Partnerships for the Goals’ which means establishing public, public-private and civil society partnerships to achieve sustainable development goals. For Sofap, this will likely translate into collaborations with private businesses, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private and public institutions, and civil society, to implement initiatives and help each other achieve those SDGs.

Recently, Sofap held an upcycling and recycling market, which was a joint initiative with a shopping mall and a prime example of SDG17 (‘Partnerships for the Goals’) in action. “This was a great campaign,” he said. “It attracted many artisans and members of the public and contributed towards creating awareness about the need to give waste a second life, instead of sending it to landfill.”





# Giving Back to the Community Through Action

The Taylor Smith Foundation is a modest, yet impactful department that exerts significant, widespread influence. While the Taylor Smith Group has consistently made charitable donations and provided assistance to the underprivileged, it wasn't until 2010 that the Foundation was formalised. It partners with various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in deprived areas of Mauritius and Rodrigues Islands to help alleviate poverty.

**“Engaging directly with the community, interacting with its members, and building relationships is crucial. Our core values include compassion, respect, trust and cooperation, and our association with the NGOs extends beyond financial support, as we cultivate relationships with them based on trust, friendship and guidance. Through these connections, we gain valuable insights into the reality of life in these regions, enabling us to better identify their needs,”** said **Ann Vallet, the Foundation’s Founder and Manager.**

The mission of the Foundation is to contribute to sustainable development, with a focus on economic, social, and environmental pillars. It utilises the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as guiding principles for its support, with education remaining a top priority.



The Foundation contributes to society through several initiatives stemming from these pillars:

## SDG 1 & 2 No Poverty and Zero Hunger

- We contribute to La Boutique Solidaire managed by the NGO Caritas, which aims to provide affordable essential products to individuals in need throughout the year.
- Towards the end of the year, the Foundation distributes food packs to families in Roche Bois and Saint Croix (poor areas of Port Louis in close proximity of the TSG head office), to help families celebrate the festive season with dignity.
- In November and December, we partner with NGOs to distribute meals and Christmas gifts to children in deprived areas of Port Louis.
- We also promote sustainable agriculture by offering financial support to associations that establish basic vegetable gardens and implement aquaponic systems on their premises.



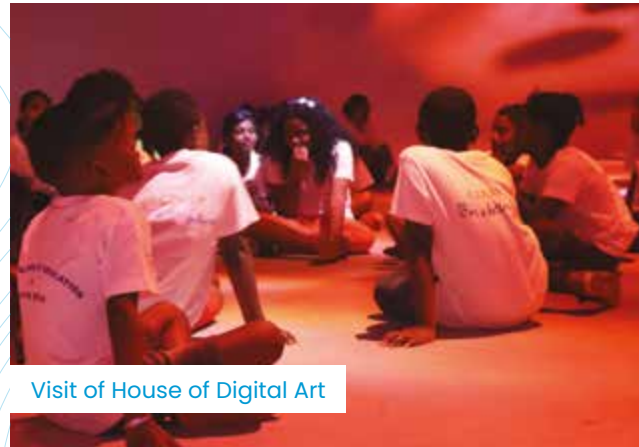
## SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being

- The Foundation provides funding for counsellors and psychologists to operate in schools through the NGO called *Action for Integral Human Development*.
- We also finance a programme called Les Amis de Zippy, which promotes the emotional well-being of young children in schools.
- The Foundation contributes to drug rehabilitation efforts through Caritas.
- We provide financial support to Pedostop in their campaign to inform, prevent, and support victims of sexual abuse.



Mrs Ann Vallet – Manager of the Taylor Smith Foundation





Visit of House of Digital Art

#### SDG 4 Quality Education

The goal to Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' is crucial for achieving other SDGs, as education helps break the cycle of poverty, among other benefits. In this regard, the Foundation offers the following assistance to the education sector:

- Every year, students from low-income families are sponsored in their studies at College Technique St Gabriel, one of the best technical schools in Mauritius.
- Previously, the Taylor Smith Foundation financed the provision of computers for an NGO called Ecole de Fatima, located in the north of the Island.
- It contributes towards the operating costs of NGOs located mainly in impoverished areas of Port Louis, which provide support to children who were excluded from mainstream education, so giving them a second chance to build their confidence and self-esteem.
- Other NGOs provide education and life skills' support to children before and after school, and during school holidays while their parents are at work. It includes encouraging reading, assisting them with their homework and teaching the children moral values, so helping them to shape a brighter future.
- The Foundation contributes towards different projects proposed by the Mozart School of Music in Roche Bois, a poverty-stricken area of Port Louis. Such support provides opportunities to talented young musicians to develop their skills.
- There is a cookery school in Port Louis for non-academic adolescents who hail from disadvantaged backgrounds, and the Foundation provides financing for those young adults.

The Taylor Smith Foundation is a modest, yet impactful department that exerts significant, widespread influence



#### SDG 5 Gender Equality

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a necessity for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world, and the Foundation is active in this, in the following ways:

- We support NGOs that provide childcare services to enable mothers to work.
- We empower women by providing financial support to NGOs that teach skills and help women become financially independent.

#### SDG 6 Clean Water

- The Foundation sponsors water tanks for NGOs to ensure that they have access to clean water.

#### SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Taylor Smith's Foundation offers scholarships to vulnerable young people, many of whom have encountered difficult family issues, and left school prematurely. The objective here is to provide these young people with skills that will enable them to become responsible citizens and later pursue meaningful employment.

#### SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

- We provide financing for awareness sessions on responsible consumption and production to children in NGOs and schools.

#### SDG 13 Climate Action

- The Foundation sponsors NGOs who conduct awareness education about climate change to children.

#### SDG 15 Life on Land

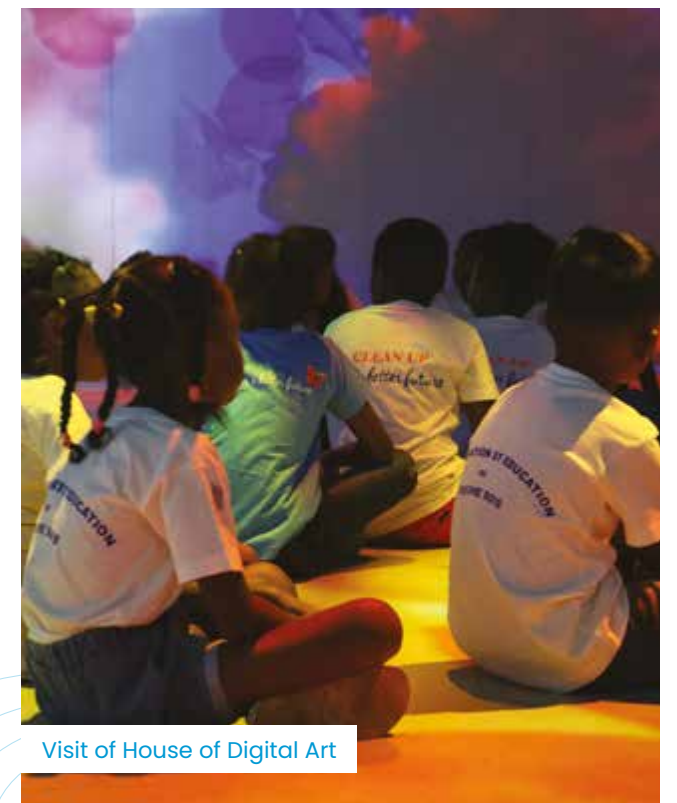
- The Mauritius Wildlife Foundation runs several projects in Mauritius and on Rodrigues Island. It raises awareness about endangered species and rare endemic plants, protects various ecosystems, and supports the reintroduction of previously-endangered species.

#### SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- With Mauritius being a multicultural and multi-denominational nation, the Taylor Smith Foundation believes it is important to support The Council of Religions. This body promotes social cohesion and peace in the country through different actions and the Foundation is glad to assist the Council's goals and objectives.



Christmas gift distribution to underprivileged children



Visit of House of Digital Art





# Spotlight on the Taylor Smith Employee Welfare Activities



Our 2022 celebration, hosted at the picturesque *Domaine de Labourdonnais*, drew an impressive gathering of nearly 600 guests



Each year, the Group organises an outing for Taylor Smith's employees' children for approximately 100 to 150 children. In 2022, we visited Gros Cailloux and the following year, it was Aapravasi Ghat; then they visited the Odysseo Aquarium in Port Louis, and the Saline Garden for recreational activities and a drawing competition. Something else that the Foundation does is collect good quality, secondhand clothes and shoes, and donate them to The Good Shop.

**The welfare committee collects electronic waste products, which are then given to BEM Recycling.**

**The committee organises group induction breakfasts for new employees to meet other staff, and these are held at head office in groups of approximately 60 to 70 people.**

The committee sometimes works hand-in-hand with NGOs for small projects. Last year's chosen NGO was Maurivert, from whom we purchased eco-friendly pencils.

In October 2023, the head office team came together at the picturesque Le Domaine de la Grave, for a team-building fun day.





A black and white photograph of a shipyard. Two boats are on dry-docks. The boat in the foreground is a smaller motorboat, and the one behind it is a larger vessel. The yard is filled with wooden beams, ropes, and other equipment. In the background, there are buildings and hills.

# TAYLOR SMITH

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY GROUP

RESPECT | EMPOWER | INNOVATE



