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Inside Laser

Insights From Inside



DPD LASER IS INVOLVED IN MOVING THE VACCINE

GAC LASER IS INVOLVED IN CLEARING WIND FARM COMPONENTS

LASER LOGISTICS GROWS IN DURBAN



Inside Laser

2020 was a year like no other. COVID-19 brought with it much change and many uncertainties.

During early lockdown, the decision was taken to close Time Freight. We extend huge gratitude to all of our Time Freight team members and wish them every success in their new ventures.

Within the rest of The Laser Group, the resounding theme throughout 2020 was resilience. All of our people continued to go the extra mile, making us extremely proud every step of the way. Whilst there is a long way to go before COVID-19 is out of our lives, we can confidently say that The Laser Group can handle (and deliver) it all!



What's Inside Laser Logistics?

Laser Logistics successfully made it through 2020 under the leadership of Johann Pretorius. The business was forced into total closure for the first few weeks of lockdown and then opened partially as the economy opened. With a focus on technology and health and safety, Laser Logistics continues to move with speed and agility.



A few months prior to lockdown, Laser Logistics moved to its new site in Mount Edgecombe in Durban. The facility is headed up by one of our longest serving employees who's career has progressed brilliantly within our group.

Meet Meshack

"I originally joined *Laser Logistics* in 2007 as a casual where I was responsible for offloading vehicles on an ad-hoc basis in Isando Johannesburg. I had no knowledge of the logistics industry and simply took the job in order to put food on the table. In 2008, I was lucky to be afforded a permanent role as a Checker. My manager at the time believed in me and started teaching me how to resolve credits and look after the Receiving Area.

In 2010 I was promoted to Receiving Supervisor, and very quickly after that I was promoted to Assistant Distribution Manager while we moved facilities to Chloorkop Johannesburg. In 2016, I implemented the night shift in Johannesburg and in 2018, I was again promoted to the Assistant Operations Manager. My leaders at Laser Logistics have always seen the potential in me, and Johann approached me in 2019 to relocate to Durban and manage the Durban facility."





“Is your family enjoying Durban?”

I moved here with my wife, Mpfariseni and our son Wandeme around two years ago. We initially found it tough to grasp, however we now call Durban home and are very settled. We are happy to be here and are very glad that we grabbed the opportunity and made the best of it!

“What has been the biggest lesson that you have learnt since arriving in Durban?”

I had only been here a few months, when COVID-19 arrived. It was amazing for me to see how sectors were destroyed over - night. It is unlikely that certain of our volumes will ever reach pre-covid levels and we are continuously looking for business to ensure sustainability and create growth for ourselves. My biggest learning last year was that we can learn to change quickly and that safety is of utmost importance. The faster that we are able to change, the faster we will be able to make money. In addition to this, the hygiene protocols must be focused on as we protect our team and our customers.

“What is the best advice that anyone has ever given you?”

My first manager at Laser Logistics, Isak Roussow told me that there is always a solution. He never gave me an answer to a problem, he always insisted that I come up with an idea first. I do the same with my team. I learnt through Isaak that you naturally value people who value you, and so I continuously try and show my team how much I value them.

What's Inside GAC Laser Specialised?



Our Pretoria bomb squad was at it again during 2020. Even though the majority of shows and exhibitions were cancelled across the globe, the 2021 IDEX (International Defence Exhibition and Conference) continued and GAC Laser was able to facilitate cargo for 5 of its South African clients, with the amazing help of our Abu Dhabi GAC team. The highlight was the delivery of this 12 metre long MN Centurion Patrol Vessel, which made it, intact to the show on time. Nico Troostheide, Regional Executive was onsite working alongside our GAC Abu Dhabi team.



REIPPPP (Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Program) ROUND 4

The first quarter of 2020 began with the Siemens Kangnas and Perdekraal Wind Farms. This project included collecting the main transport frames from the relevant sites, arranging the customs inspection in Cape Town and shipping cargo back to origin in China and Denmark. The project was a big success.

GAC Laser International was appointed as the sole customs clearing agent for the Goldwind Golden Valley Project entering SA through the Coega Port. This Wind Farm is located near Coega in the Eastern Cape and consists of 48 Wind Turbine Generators which, when erected, stand at a height of 130m from foundation to tip end. Our involvement ensured timely vessel clearances allowing cargo to be transported to site on time and in line with construction schedules.

GAC Laser was also awarded

the SA landside logistics operations for the Nordex Round 4 Projects. Copperton, Garob and Nxuba Wind Farms are located in the Eastern Cape with Roggeveld situated near Matjiesfontein in the Western Cape. These projects are currently on-going and to-date we've handled over 500 containers of incoming general cargo.

GAC Laser's involvement includes ensuring that all documentation is compliant, unpacking containers and flat racks into our warehouses, inspecting the cargo for any damages or short shipped cargo, as well as the safe storage of all components. We also arrange the picking, packing and delivery of cargo through to the relevant farms, all while ensuring there is constant communication and updates with the Nordex logistics teams. This technically demanding project has been run seamlessly by our team resulting in an extremely

satisfied client. Over the last couple of years GAC Laser identified the need for a wind turbine component cleaning service in the port of Saldanha prior to the transportation to the wind farms for erection. To date GAC Laser has cleaned over 1000 massive wind turbine components for various major wind turbine OEMs.

Our determined, onsite task-force, comprises a supervisor and 6 cleaners from the local Saldanha community. Their days are spent cleaning the pink iron ore dust off the wind turbine components which are staged in the port before final dispatch to the wind farm.

Overall, as mentioned by John Scott heading up the renewables sector "this has been a successful and rewarding foray into the renewable sector and we look forward to further rounds of the REIPPPP".

Despite a rocky year full of Covid19 lockdowns and numerous challenges in our industry, GAC Laser had successful involvement on projects with Siemens Gamesa, Goldwind and Nordex Acciona Wind Energy under the leadership of Simon Hayes.



What's Inside DPD Laser?

The end of 2020 brought a change in leadership for DPD Laser. Iain Johnson, who held the role of CEO (in addition to his position as Group CEO) left the business in December 2020. We welcome Anton Visagie to steer the ship.

Anton has been consulting to DPD Laser for the last 5 years while successfully heading up the healthcare vertical. We have already seen his fast - paced decision making having a strong impact on the business and are delighted to have his expertise in a full - time capacity.



Contactless Delivery

As a leader in technology within the courier industry, DPD Laser was ahead of the game with its contactless delivery technology which was developed and implemented during lockdown. All of our drivers were trained to perform contactless deliveries to keep themselves and our recipients safe.

Further additions were made to the technology in order to ensure that customers are in total control of their deliveries and have peace of mind through our interactive delivery notifications.

These notifications enable customers to track their parcels journey, change the delivery address, select alternative delivery days, as well as receive details of the specific driver and delivery vehicle - a useful feature in a security conscious environment.

Parcelshops

Given the sheer volume of parcels that are moving throughout the country, and abroad, DPD Laser decided to open parcelshops in some key areas to provide even greater convenience to those wishing to drop off, pick up or return parcels.

Dean Street Parcelshop in Newlands was the 1st to open in October 2020, followed by Pineslopes, Fourways, Johannesburg in November 2020. During 2021, the business intends to open numerous shops throughout South Africa, which will create more choice and convenience for our customers.

Don't forget to visit one of our parcel shops when you are in the area.



We're expanding!

DPD Laser has opened several branches in regional areas during the course of 2020 and we continue to expand in 2021, offering even better national coverage of our amazing country. These include: Swellendam, Klerksdorp, Kimberley, Harrismith, Moorreesburg and soon to open Uppington and New Castle.

These branches allow us to be less reliant on third party contractors and take control of our own network – making sure that we have control over our customers' experience and can ensure delivery excellence. Below are our guys at the Moorreesburg golf day making DPD Laser proud!





The Vaccine

DPD Laser has announced its partnership with Helium and natural gas company Renegen, who have revealed the first Cryo-Vacc™ COVID-19 vaccine freezer prototype. With the recent release of the National Department of Health tender for the distribution of vaccines in South Africa, Renegen has decided to team up with DPD Laser due to our well known last-mile courier express capabilities and broad infrastructure throughout South Africa.

The unit which we will be transporting can keep vaccines ultra cold, delivering a temperature range of -150°C to 8°C , for up to 25 days, and can store up to 780 vials (4700 doses), while needing no electricity. This project will create huge opportunity for us in the healthcare space going forward and has created a big buzz in the business.

Industry News

DPDgroup focuses on e-commerce in its ambitious growth strategy

DPDgroup is aiming to double revenues by 2025 through new delivery services, acquisitions and international partnerships to profit from the worldwide e-commerce boom under an ambitious growth strategy lead by CEO Boris Winkelmann.

Apart from strong organic growth and M&A deals, the 'Together & Beyond' strategy, which follows a record-breaking year, also aims to bring the diverse businesses of La Poste's international subsidiaries closer together, he told European media (including CEP-Research) in an online press conference earlier this month.

Financially, the parcels operator aims to increase turnover from €11 billion in 2020 to €21 billion by 2025 and then to €27 billion by 2030. This would be achieved half through organic growth and half through external growth in the form of acquisitions, the CEO said.

Boris Winkelmann

Chief Executive officer



Image by Patrice Maurein

2020

key facts and figures





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