

R45m order for ADE

Diesel engine manufacturer, Atlantis Diesel Engines, secured a R45-million export order from German company, Daimler Benz, late last year.

The contract, which commenced in February this year, calls for ADE to supply Daimler Benz with a total volume of 140 000 four-cylinder petrol block castings for the 230 Mercedes Benz passenger cars over the next 18 months.

Commenting on the company's latest boost to its rapidly growing international export business of more than R400-million per year, Ron Shires, managing director of ADE, said: 'We are confident that this order is just the starting point in our export of engine blocks for passenger cars to the Daimler Benz factory in Germany'.

ADE is currently supplying Ssangyong in South Korea with about 40 000 petrol and diesel engine blocks per year for their 4x4 Mercedes-powered recreational and passenger vehicles.

As a result of government's

revised protective tariff policy, an influx of foreign engines into South Africa is gradually eroding ADE's local diesel engine business. Nevertheless, the company is placing more emphasis on ensuring that its local customers are taken care of.

'We will have an estimated 250 000 engines in the South Africa market by the turn of the century,' says Shires. 'We are deeply committed to providing the highest level of parts availability and service in this country well into the next millennium.'

Shires anticipates that ADE's export of engine components will increase in parallel with the slowdown in local engine assembly.

In order to sustain its competitive performance internationally, ADE began a process of restructuring as early as 1991 to increase productivity and competitiveness.

'This has helped us to achieve an extremely lean management structure and a skilled and cost-effective workforce,' says Shires.

Enter awards now

With weeks to go to the deadline for entries in the stain-

less steel awards programme, Sassda executive director, Dave Slater, is urging companies and individuals to "get their entries in or miss out until the year 2000". The closing date for entries is 24 July 1998.

The biennial awards programme will acknowledge innovation and excellence in the stainless steel industry.

"The awards, which are understood to be the first of their kind anywhere in the world, will cover the complete spectrum of activity in the stainless steel industry and have been designed to promote excellence by stimulating creativity, competitiveness and productivity," says Slater.

"Furthermore the awards programme aims to encourage innovation and entrepreneurial development, heighten awareness of stainless steel at all levels and enhance the image of South Africa in the international arena," he adds.

"Not only will the awards lead to untold local and international prestige but they will also serve to stimulate staff, attract new customers and lead to additional business."

Entry forms are available from Sassda offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Contact Dave Slater on tel: (011) 803-5610. □



SA first for London based institution



Allyson Lawless vice-president of the London-based Institution of Structural Engineers

Allyson Lawless recently became the first female vice-president of the London-based Institution of Structural Engineers.

One of the first female graduates in Civil Engineering in South Africa, Allyson has faced few obstacles due to discrimination, and has built a successful business developing and selling civil engineering software both in South Africa and beyond our borders.

As a result of her positive experiences she has encouraged other women to study in the civil engineering field. Today some 14

percent of all students in the field in South Africa are female. Engineering is about competency and doubt or prejudice disappear once competency is shown.

Her duties as a vice-president are directed towards the Institution's role in international affairs.

The Institution's Part 3 examination to obtain the MStructE qualification, which requires academic qualifications and work experience before the exam can be taken, is becoming the International standard for structural engineering qualification. Several countries, including China, are in the process of adopting this MStructE examination as the qualification for registration as a structural engineer.

The need to assist with improved structural engineering the world over will see Allyson communicating with many countries on these issues.

Engineering Codes are under constant development particularly in the third world where there is a need for codes using appropriate technology. Establishing the needs, finding the funds and issuing the new codes is a key part of the service which the Institution offers to the industry.

With so many challenges, 1998 promises to be a busy year for the Institution's first female vice-president. □

International refractory range now in South Africa

Refractech (Pty) Ltd has acquired the sole South African agency for AMR Refractories, a Spanish company specialising in the design, manufacturing and distribution of a range of refractory products for the steel industry.

The AMR product range includes BOF converter linings, electric arc furnace linings, ladle furnace linings and degassor linings, turndish impact plates,

mortars and castables. A variety of additional products such as sliding nozzle plates and nozzles, porous plugs, setting blocks and sealing pads are also available. All AMR products are in compliance with ISO 9002, EN 29002 and UNE 66902 standards.

AMR is a subsidiary of the Krosaki Corporation, one of the world's largest refractory producers. □