

Sasol expansion completed at Secunda

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Energy and chemicals giant Sasol has completed a R1.1bn investment to expand its two polypropylene manufacturing plants at Secunda, within schedule and funded from internal cash flows, it said on Monday, 21 November.



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Sasol invested about R20bn a year in maintenance and expansion at its liquid fuels and chemicals operations in Sasolburg and Secunda, joint CEO Stephen Cornell said. Sasol was continuously looking for other expansion opportunities, particularly in its chemicals activities.

This project employed 920 people during construction but the number of new jobs created is minimal. It was carried out while the plant continued to operate, although an extended plant shutdown was necessary in the past financial year to enable commissioning.

The C3 expansion follows a previous investment of R1.3bn between 2012 and 2014 in a stabilisation project at Secunda aimed at de-bottlenecking the propylene manufacturing facilities. Propylene is an input for polypropylene, which has a wide range of uses, mainly packaging of consumer goods but also in textiles and automotive components. SA's demand for polypropylene was growing at 4% a year, in line with international trends, Cornell said.

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