Athenkosi Hlonyane

Mechatronic Engineer (ECSA Candidate) - Plant & ME&I Project Engineer

Rustenburg, North West • Open to Gauteng (Pretoria/Johannesburg)

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

My experience spans operations across mining & minerals processing plants, and automotive manufacturing plants in Mechanical, Electrical & Instrumentation Engineering roles. I'm actively pursuing my GCC (Factories) and working toward being a registered Professional Engineer (Pr. Eng), with a passion for Mechatronics, IoT, and Industry 4.0 technologies. Plant-facing Mechatronic Engineer with hands-on project experience: scopes and RFQs, vendor coordination, installation planning, and safe commissioning on live equipment. I am driven to contribute in roles that integrate innovative engineering solutions with safety, plant availability and operational resilience.

EDUCATION

University of Pretoria	Pretoria, South Africa
BEngHons in Electronic Engineering (NQF 8) - Advanced Process Control	*Jan. 2025 – Present*
Stellenbosch University	Stellenbosch, South Africa
BEng Mechatronic Engineering (NQF 8)	*Feb. 2018 – Dec. 2023*
Technische Universität München	Munich, Germany
BSc Mechanical Engineering (Year Exchange Programme)	*Feb. 2021 – Mar. 2022*
Muir College Boys' Highschool	Kariega, South Africa
National Senior Certificate, 5 Distinctions (Aggregate - 85%)	*Jan. 2013 – Dec. 2017*

CERTIFICATIONS

Engineering Council of South Africa	Johannesburg,South Africa
Candidate Engineer	*Jul. 2025 – Present*
RealPars B.V. *(online industrial automation learning platform)*	Rotterdam, South Holland
Industrial Maintenance Mastery: Predictive Techniques & System Troubleshooting	*Jan. 2024 – Present*
RealPars B.V. *(online industrial automation learning platform)*	Rotterdam, South Holland
IO-Link Essentials: Accelerating Towards Industry 4.0	*Jan. 2024 – Present*
RealPars B.V. *(online industrial automation learning platform)*	Rotterdam, South Holland
Internet of Things (IoT): Learn the Basics	*Jan. 2024 – Present*

EXPERIENCE

Artisan (Specialist) — Jan 2025 – Present
Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty.) Ltd — *Rustenburg, NW*

- Planned and coordinated small upgrades: wrote scopes, prepared RFQs, aligned vendor deliverables, and built installation/commissioning plans
- Led site-level implementation and evidence for Fatal Hazard Protocols (Energy Isolation, Working at Heights, Trackless Mobile Machinery, Lifting & Cranage) and ran Management Of Change reviews for engineering protocols.
- Ensured safe lifting and cranage operations by completing Level 3 Risk Assessments, Lift Study, Crane Inspections, and lifting equipment checks in coordination with the rigger
- Site champion for IntelliPermit and RiskTalk digital permit/safety tools: training, weekly rollouts, adoption tracking.
- Performed middle-management support functions by liaising with external vendor site managers and supervisors, engaging internal senior coordinators, and assisting in the coordination of a multidisciplinary artisan team (electricians, millwrights, boilermakers, fitters, instrumentation & cctv technicians).
- Facilitated upward and downward communication channels and supported the execution of plant-level management objectives.

- Coordinating and managing care & maintenance projects: From scope of works, to sourcing, site meetings, awarding orders, and part of approval chain for various functional cost locations
- Conducting almost daily onboarding inspections to ensure only roadworthy Trackless Mobile Machinery (TMM) that meet Glencore safety standards are permitted on site

Engineer-in-Training   Jan 2024 – Dec 2024
Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty.) Ltd   *Rustenburg, NW*

- Led a damper actuator upgrade (from pneumatic → electric): RFQ → vendor coordination → install / commissioning plan, successfully demonstrated reduced downtime & inefficiency previously caused by slip & pressure leaks.
- Led a **R5m+ SCADA upgrade** & **R5m+ CCTV upgrade** tender: wrote scope, shortlisted vendors, compiled tender pack; provided evaluation inputs.
- Improved data management and the data management architecture for Glencore Ferroalloys - Planned historian stack: market scan, stakeholder sessions, vendor engagements; laid groundwork for an enterprise historian model.
- Supported PLC/SCADA changes on plant equipment: interlocks/permissives, analog scaling, and HMI tag/alarms/trends updates.
- Managed the introduction of a new centralized lifting equipment store, responsibilities include conducting management of change (MOC) process, project management, resource management, budget and schedule optimisation, health and safety requirements, and Fatal Hazard Protocols compliance
- Coordinated daily maintenance tasks, supervised and managed instrumentation and CCTV technicians - reviewed and signed-off risk assessments (JSA's), work permits, contractor files, and working at heights permits to mention a few
- Chaired daily GCOM meetings, focusing on safety, risk management, task management, and open communication

Instrumentation Engineer (Vacation Work)   Dec. 2022 – Jan. 2023
Glencore Operations South Africa (Pty.) Ltd   *Rustenburg, NW*

- Learned about the value chain of Glencore Rustenburg Smelter, by theoretical and practical exposure, from mining, Sintering Plant, Processing Plant (Smelter) and shipping of ferrochrome
- Successfully designed and simulated a PLC-based automated system that sequentially switches between a main and backup centrifugal fan - damper unit (a critical component in the ferrochrome manufacturing process)
- Sequenced main/backup fan changeover with interlocks on HMI; reduced manual interventions and improved changeover reliability under load.

Assembly Maintenance Engineer (Vacation Work)   June 2023 – July 2023
Volkswagen of South Africa (Pty.) Ltd.   *Kariega, EC*

- Understanding vehicle manufacturing in detail including entire value chain
- Responded to maintenance breakdowns (hydraulics/robots) and implemented TPM improvements on work instructions.
- Performed fault-finding & programmed KUKA 6-DOF arm for glass/window placement
- Optimised existing maintenance work instructions and compiled process flow diagrams for work procedures
- Introduced and developed an automated inventory control program for a new maintenance equipment store

Mechatronics Engineer (Vacation Work)   June 2019 – July 2019
Volkswagen of South Africa (Pty.) Ltd.   *Kariega, EC*

- Designed and implemented hydraulic & pneumatic technical circuits, and electrical & electronic technical circuits as solutions to multiple problem scenarios
- Analysed technical designs for points of failure, and utilised failure prevention methods to ensure design for safety adherence
- Programmed KUKA 6DOF industrial robot arm to perform various basic tasks

PROJECTS

Automation of Charge Chute Fans | *CODESYS, Autodesk Inventor, Ladder Logic*   Dec 2022 – Jan 2023
- Performed this project for Glencore Rustenburg Smelter as part of my vacation work
- Conceptualised, designed and visualised a mechatronic system using Autodesk Inventor

- Performed motor, gearbox and coupling selection using various manufacturer catalogues
- Implemented a PLC control system in ladder logic (CODESYS) with interlocks and permissives
- Built a simple HMI (CODESYS) and simulated end-to-end operation

Final-Year Project | *3D printing, Fusion, Arduino, SQL, PHP, HTML, JS, Git*   Feb 2022 – Oct 2022
- Performed this project in partial fulfillment of my degree at Stellenbosch University
- Designed and assembled a modular waterproof temperature measurement system for high temp/pressure
- Produced mechanical drawings to ISO; parts manufactured successfully
- Designed a PCB DAQ; produced electronics drawings to IEEE
- Implemented an IoT pipeline: ESP32 → MySQL → Heroku-hosted web server streaming live data

Skills

Professional Skills: Project Execution • Change Management (MOC) • Project Management • Contractor Management • Cross-functional communication • Problem Solving

Engineering Skills: Mechatronic (Mechanical, Electronics) Design • PLC Programming (Siemens TIA/Step7, Schneider Ecostruxure) • PID, Model-Based, Advanced Process Control • HMI/SCADA (WinCC, Proficy iFix) • Fieldbus: Profinet, Profibus

Engineering Tools: MS Project • Autodesk (Inventor, Fusion 360) • Siemens TIA Portal • WinCC • CODESYS • MATLAB/Simulink • SAP • Coupa • Isometrix

Programming Languages: Python • C • Ladder Logic • SQL • VBA • JavaScript/HTML/CSS

References

Contactable references available on request