

DEVELOPMENT: LANDMARK TO DOUBLE IN SIZE

Bigger plans for CTICC

A city landmark and international attraction will soon double in size.

The ceremony to mark the first sod being turned on the construction site of the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) expansion took place on Monday.

The main construction contractor is expected to start its on-site work in February, with work scheduled for completion towards the end of 2016. CTICC East is scheduled to open its doors to the public in early 2017.

The CTICC East expansion is part of a broader precinct development, which is set to include a 40 000m² commercial and hotel development alongside a new hospital.

CTICC chairperson Gary Fisher says: "The expansion, which is set to raise the global competitiveness of Cape Town as a premier world class meetings and events destination, will double the centre's existing exhibition capacity by adding 10 000m² of flexible space."

Over the past 11 years, the CTICC has played an instrumental role in driving economic growth and job creation in South Africa by attracting international meetings and events to the city, Fisher says.

The CTICC has cumulatively contributed over R22bn to the national Gross Domestic Product and in excess of R7bn to the Western Cape Gross Geographic Product.

"By expanding, we will be able to stage more events, offer more flexibility and allow

for an increase in the concurrent hosting of various sizes of meetings, conventions, exhibitions and other events," he says.

One of the key elements in the expansion relates to an empowerment framework that will see the establishment of opportunities for small, medium and micro enterprises to become part of the project, Fisher points out.

"These opportunities will not only be created in the construction phase, but will form part of the centre's business model and strategy, creating sustained job opportunities," he says.

City of Cape Town deputy mayor Ian Nielsen says the CTICC has become one of the world's leading meeting centres.

"It is a place of gathering for all Capetonians and for international visitors," he says.

"Within five years of its opening, the demand for the CTICC's exhibition hall outstripped supply. A 100% occupancy level has become a frequent occurrence and the City of Cape Town agreed the CTICC must expand to remain competitive as there are many new convention centres opening across the world."

Nielsen continues: "The City of Cape Town's increased investment in the CTICC will further unlock the economic potential of this municipal entity. It will make a significant contribution to job creation and it will help to drive economic growth. This is part of our commitment to building an opportunity city for our residents."