GS1 South Africa Newsletter
August 2021

SMME Getting Retail Ready Development Program
We Wish all Women A Joyful & Memorable Women’s Month 2021!

…and in keeping with the theme of phenomenal woman:

We bid farewell to our GS1 Council Co-Chair, Tracy Dennison, Unilever SA

Tracy has been involved in the adoption and support of the GS1 Standards within Unilever SA for most of her illustrious career spent with the manufacturer. She has been instrumental in a multitude of projects which seek to strengthen the flow of data from their business to their trading partners such as wholesalers and retailers and in the more recent years, the marketplaces and online stores.

Tracey joined the SA GS1 Council as a manufacturer representative and in the past 3 years supported and guided the key projects which we have undertaken to assist our members with as a Co-chair. The work undertaken has helped GS1 to extend our reach in terms of standards impartation and to help other companies to achieve the benefits which come with adopting the GS1 Standards. Tracy has taken a decision to explore new opportunities and we bid her a fond farewell, we wish you nothing but the best for your future endeavours and we hope to carry on the great work, started together with you in GS1 South Africa.

50th Anniversary of the GTIN

As the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the development of the Global Trade Item Number (“GTIN”), a call is being made for a new generation of barcodes to reshape global commerce while also empowering consumers with trusted product information.

This is particularly important to ensure the integrity of the international supply chain of goods, protect consumers and patients from counterfeit and illicit goods as well as support the growth of global trade through using trusted data.

The GTIN was adopted on 31 March 1971 when leaders from the biggest names in commerce came together and transformed the global economy forever by developing this numerical code which uniquely identifies every single product and is the core of the barcode, the most important supply chain standard in history. Today, the barcode is scanned over six billion times every day and remains one of the most trusted symbols in the world.

In South Africa and the SADC region, it is estimated that the barcode, which is administered by GS1 South Africa, is scanned over 1 billion times daily. GS1 South Africa is at the forefront of ensuring that retailers, including SMEs, use authorised barcodes from GS1 South Africa, instead of obtaining these from unauthorised resellers.

GS1 standards such as the barcode continue to help make the vast complexity of modern, global business flow quickly, efficiently, and securely, simplifying all kinds of supply chain processes in almost every sector all around the world. However, as consumers demand more and better product information, it is time to bring barcodes to the next level.

However, developments towards next generation barcodes (such as square barcodes like QR codes), which can hold vastly more information, should be used to empower consumers with trusted information and reshape global commerce for a new century. Their use, for example, can tell consumers if a product contains allergens, if it is organic, and information on its carbon footprint. Ultimately, this provides consumers with a greater level of trust and loyalty relating to the products they buy.

We at GS1 South Africa are proud to perform the work needed for the future, aligned with GS1 Member Organisations around the world. As said by Ozgur Tort, CEO of Migros Ticaretas & Co-Chair of The Consumer Goods Forum: “Our ultimate objective is to ensure transparency, satisfaction, safety and trust to our customers, our partners and our employees. Just like our predecessors of half a century ago, we as business leaders must come together now, to develop standards that deliver even more useful and accurate product information. This type of collaboration and partnership can advance emerging technologies in ways that will benefit both businesses and consumers, all over the world.”

Above: The Team finally in the office to celebrate 50 years of the GTIN and the 39th Anniversary of GS1 South Africa. We feel proud and blessed to look back at the journey of these significant and remarkable years. Here’s to many years!
In a challenging year where trading partners were under pressure, the stable and robust GDSN kept successfully powering the global supply chain. We have never been prouder of GS1’s largest active service.

By allowing high-quality product content to be uploaded, maintained and shared automatically, GS1 South Africa Largest Regional and National GDSN platform powered by 1 Trusted Source and 1World Sync, this product data network, ensures trading partners have immediate access to the current and complete information they need to do business in local and global markets.

Whilst the implementation faced intense challenges the Pick n Pay master data team didn’t miss a beat in a year when the supply chain faced intense challenges. As soon as the impact of the pandemic became clear, we reached out to our users to be sure we were serving them as they needed. Their responses were clear: GDSN has been and remains mission-critical; a vitally important foundation to their efforts to get products to consumers and medicines to patients.

Pick n Pay tackled the low adoption rate of electronic trade in South Africa with the help of Endoxa. During the past ten years Pick n Pay have rolled out B2B e-commerce and collaborative workflow to over 2,500 suppliers throughout Africa. By using EndoxaFlow Pick n Pay is able to provide a B2B e-commerce platform that greatly assists their smaller suppliers which don’t require special software to trade and collaborate with Pick n Pay.

Across the entire year—before COVID-19 and since—we sustained robust service levels, deployed maintenance releases on schedule and continued to serve our SADC regional community of trading partners.

Going forward, we intend to continue to provide a neutral, standards-based environment for reliable and efficient exchange of quality data across industry sectors, regions and markets.

We envision a world where this continuous synchronisation of product information among trading partners enables the sustainable growth of global value chains, doing away with manual listing or excel forms.

To make that vision a reality, we are working to strengthen the foundation of our Network through transparency and compliance; to enable data quality and integrity through implementation, measuring and monitoring of standards; to simplify GDSN with modernised technology and processes; and to amplify the notoriety of the GDSN brand to better ensure growth and adoption—and always for the benefit of consumer and patients around the world.
SMME Getting Retail Ready Development Program

Whether you are bringing your product to market for the first time or taking your company to the next level, see how GS1 South Africa makes it easier to do business.

GS1 South Africa helps more than 8000 small businesses in the SADC region to do business better. We help improve identifying, capturing, and sharing your product information. Through GS1 Standards and leveraging GS1 South Africa’s experience, we can help you run your business with greater efficiency, enhance product safety, and much more.

We have improved our service offerings to small businesses and entrepreneurs, and we have also listened to the challenges facing their businesses. Through our SMME Development program, we have ensured that we align our standards & solutions accordingly to assist SMMEs to achieve “retail readiness”. We have altered the pricing of accessing the standards such as our Global Company Prefixes which allow access to unique GS1 Barcodes, we have made free our GS1 Activate service as well as started efforts to have all proudly South African products available on our global data synchronisation platform namely Trusted Source, where retailers browse, synch and import all data about the products they wish to list in their stores.

GS1 South Africa has developed several new businesses and entrepreneurs through training, consultation, and support and also in partnership with our FSI division we are helping SMMEs to be compliant in multiple aspects of their supply chain. Some of what we help SMMEs to achieve is registering GS1 Barcodes, ensuring print & packaging compliance, uploading product information, food safety advice, labelling compliance, specific product regulatory compliance. This is done through training and consultation support. GS1 South Africa is committed to help to grow all member SMMEs in Africa. We welcome any engagement to drive retail readiness of these emerging companies.

Introduction to New Alliance Partners

GS1 Alliance Partner Program (APP) partners play a leading role in adopting, enabling & maintaining the GS1 standards, so that they can support our members to grow, innovate and thrive. Whether a member company is looking to use GS1 unique identifiers to develop their supply chains, or to make their products and services safer, or to find the best scanning and printing hardware that can work with GS1, our partners’ extensive knowledge will support a members’ business needs.

During 2021 we welcomed 2 new key partners:

Zetes SA is an innovative supply chain technology company. They work in close collaboration with their customers to unlock greater potential through agility, visibility, and traceability in their connected supply chain. For more than 30 years they have been a welcome Zetes SA to the APP!

Redfern SA - For over 30 years, Redfern has been a key labelling partner to farmers, fruit exporters, educators, entrepreneurs, and many household brands. Offering a comprehensive range of labelling solutions including self-adhesive labels, wrap around labels, shrink sleeves and flexible packaging. Their knowledgeable team together with their distribution capabilities via logistic experts allows them a footprint throughout most of Southern Africa. Redfern we are excited to partner with you to serve industry!

Get to know some of our existing Alliance Partners

MITAS Corporation: the name consists of the first letters of the group’s main offerings: Marking, Identification, Traceability, Automation, Authentication, Systems and Solutions. MITAS Corporation consists of various direct fully owned divisions and some partial or major shareholding businesses. These associated businesses provide related or complimentary offerings which leverage other entities in the group to provide full end-to-end bespoke solutions. Every business that manufactures a product needs to mark and identify that product in some form or another, for reasons such as traceability, legal or regulatory compliance, consumer/client information, branding and others. For non-manufacturing clients, there is the requirement to manage products, organize assets, and facilitate maintenance and tracking of those assets.
Unique identification of products, places and things is the cornerstone of what we do at GS1. Our Activate data services are a foundational part of our effort to make identification truly global and ubiquitous.

Accurate data is essential across the supply chain in a time where online commerce is truly global. Inaccuracies and discrepancies in product identification are simply not acceptable anymore. That is why, in 2020, GS1 committed to creating a global infrastructure for industry that would ensure all products have a valid GS1 Global Trade Item Number (GTIN). Historically, GTINs were generated locally—directly by our user community—under the umbrella of their GS1 Company Prefix. Unfortunately, this model made it impossible for GS1 to know which GTINs were assigned to which products.

This is where Activate comes in. GS1 Member Organisations (MOs) certified as “Activate-grade” will be able to offer their users an easy, fast and globally consistent range of data services, including the issuance and management of GTINs and other GS1 keys. Thanks to these Activate-grade services, businesses everywhere can be certain that their products have a properly assigned GTIN that is fully compliant with GS1 global standards. They can also be sure that accurate and complete information about their product is uploaded to the GS1 Registry Platform, making it verifiable at any time to help build trust between retailers, marketplaces, brand owners and consumers.

In the past year, we have run pilots, developed a self-certification process for MOs, launched and analysed surveys, and held almost one hundred webinars and workshops. Many GS1 MOs are already offering Activate-grade GTIN issuance services and all of GS1 will do so by June 2023. Our entire organisation is on board with this strategically important programme, which will allow us to keep our promise to industry to ensure all products, everywhere, have a valid GTIN.

Verified by GS1

Brand owners, retailers, marketplaces and solution providers are starting to see how Verified by GS1 helps improve the shopping experience—driving greater consumer confidence, satisfaction and brand loyalty.

We live in a world where data drives business—and yet, it is still not possible for a retailer or marketplace to confidently verify the products they sell using a single source of trusted product information. Verified by GS1 is the solution, because it enables GS1 member companies to authenticate the identity of a product by validating seven pieces of information: its GS1 Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) and six other core product attributes.

The seven basic attributes allow for the identification of the product, helping to create a “digital footprint” of that product’s identity, which can be verified even after a product is no longer in the market. This helps brand owners and retailers follow and enforce the GTIN Management Standard and standards for GTIN Non-Reuse.

Verified by GS1 – Is to Products What an ID Card Is to People