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Presenter biographies

From pilot to platform: Risks, rewards and realities in making virtual wheeling work for you.



Mutenda Tshipala, Senior Manager: Strategy Development, Eskom.

Mutenda started at Eskom in power systems and electricity pricing analysis, and advanced to manage electricity pricing, focusing on developing and implementing policies and tariffs. He is establishing the electricity trading function at Eskom, responsible for strategic design and execution of Eskom's electricity trading activities. This includes driving market participation, overseeing bilateral trading, optimising trading portfolios, and ensuring regulatory compliance and alignment with national energy policies and broader market developments. His work involves close collaboration with regulatory bodies, independent power producers, and participants in regional electricity markets to foster efficient and sustainable trading operations.



Andre Nepgen, CEO, Discovery Green.

Andre Nepgen is an actuary and executive associate to the Group Chief Executive at Discovery. He heads Discovery Green, a renewable energy platform that connects businesses across South Africa to affordable and renewable energy generated by utility-scale renewable power plants. Previously, as head of the Global Vitality Network, Andre led the central development of platform assets for the global Vitality network, including global partnerships, behavioural programmes, brand initiatives, Vitality data assets, and the extension of the Vitality Shared-Value model to new markets and industries. Andre has an Honours Degree in Business and Actuarial Sciences from the University of Cape Town.



Jacques de Vos, CEO of Mezzanine, a Vodacom Group company.

Jacques de Vos is the Chief Executive Officer and founder of Mezzanine, now a subsidiary of the Vodacom Group. He leads this ever-growing organisation in delivering digital transformation across the African continent, where more than 25 Mezzanine projects are currently active in 12 African countries. His vision for the company is to establish a platform business with unique insight and track record in the agricultural, healthcare, education, social services, and now also in the energy and electricity environments, thus assisting enterprises and individuals in benefiting from the digital dividend throughout Africa. Jacques has a Master of Science Degree in Bio-Medical Engineering from Stellenbosch University.



Shirley Salvoldi, Specialist Consultant, Cresco.

Shirley has more than 44 years of experience in the electricity industry, retiring from Eskom in May 2024 where she was responsible for electricity pricing policies, tariff design, tariff plan submissions, and Eskom strategic pricing direction. She has represented Eskom and South Africa in various forums, conferences, public hearings and in the media, on tariff design, pricing strategies, dynamic pricing and wheeling. She was instrumental for the design of virtual wheeling as a concept and led the development of the NECOM net-billing and wheeling frameworks submitted to NERSA. Shirley joined Cresco in June 2024 as a consultant advising clients on Eskom tariffs, Eskom's retail tariff plan, the MYPD and the South African Wholesale Energy Market (SAWEM).



Jonathan Skeen, Head of Commercial Division, SOLA.

Jonathan has 17 years' experience in clean energy projects, energy policy, engineering and management. He has played a key role in delivering private wheeling capacity, including all three of the currently operational utility-scale wheeling projects in SA. As the MD of Commercial, he chairs the executive and risk committees, and is responsible for business development, marketing and corporate finance functions. Before joining SOLA, Jonathan worked on several large-scale industrial projects in the USA, Italy and SA, and as a clean energy policy consultant under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Jonathan qualified as a mechanical engineer at UCT and holds a MSc with distinction in Technology Policy & Management from Edinburgh University.