

Dear Valued Partner,

The National Technical Committee of the Electrical Contractors Association of South Africa (ECA(SA)) invites you to participate in our **'Industry Think Tank Events'**, a platform for fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration. These events aim to bring members together to discuss ongoing projects, innovations, and challenges, much like our successful Battery Discussion Forum.

In 2025, we plan to host **five key sessions** on a digital, face-to-face, or hybrid platform (attendance-dependent), with forums taking place every second month. The highlighted topics include:

### Key Topics Potentially for 2025

1. **Electrical Installations Around Thatch Roofs: Safety and Compliance**
  - **Overview:** Addresses the unique safety and regulatory challenges for installations in thatched-roof structures.
  - **Topics:** Compliance with SANS regulations, fire prevention strategies, surge protection, lightning arrestors, and safe installation practices.
2. **Earthing of Alternative Supplies**
  - **Overview:** Highlights the critical role of proper earthing in ensuring the safety, reliability, and compliance of alternative energy systems such as solar PV, wind turbines, and backup generators. Proper earthing mitigates risks of electrical faults, enhances system performance, and ensures adherence to safety standards.
  - **Topics:** Key principles of earthing design for renewable energy systems, types of earthing methods, grounding for inverter-based systems, integrating earthing with existing grid systems, and compliance with SANS 10142-1 and other relevant standards.
3. **Cleaning and Maintenance of Existing Renewable Energy Systems**
  - **Overview:** Emphasizes the importance of maintenance for systems like solar PV, wind turbines, and battery storage to ensure optimal performance and longevity.
  - **Topics:** Best practices for solar panel cleaning, wind turbine maintenance, battery system upkeep, and performance optimization.
4. **Electrical Installations in Caravans: Aligning with SANS 10142-1 and IEC 60364-7-721**
  - **Overview:** Explores best practices for safe, compliant electrical installations in caravans.
  - **Topics:** Wiring in confined spaces, circuit protection, grounding requirements, and IEC compliance for mobile installations.

5. ***Safety and Compliance in Renewable Energy Installations***

- ***Overview:*** Highlights the critical role of compliance with SANS standards for PV and battery storage installations.
- ***Topics:*** SANS 10142-1 Edition 3, issuing CoCs, and safety in high-voltage setups.

6. ***The Future of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Charging Infrastructure in South Africa***

- ***Overview:*** Discusses the rise of EVs, infrastructure needs, and grid impact.
- ***Topics:*** Charging station design, grid integration, battery technologies, and sustainability.

**Secondary Topics**

1. **Grid Modernization and Stability in the Age of Renewables**
2. **Innovations in Co-Generation Systems for Industrial Plants**
3. **Emerging Opportunities in Battery Storage Technologies**
4. **Digitalization and Automation in Electrical Maintenance and Management**
5. **Green Hydrogen and its Role in South Africa's Energy Mix**

If you are interested in participating in any of these sessions, please contact **Anthony Schewitz** at [anthony@ecasa.co.za](mailto:anthony@ecasa.co.za) or on **072 823 0241**.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the growth of our industry.

Kind regards,

**Anthony Schewitz**

*ECA(SA) National Technical Committee Secretary*