



**Observatoire Europe-Afrique 2030**

**Data Sheet n°14**

**Enterprise : Gibela (South Africa)**

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## 1. Activity of the enterprise

Gibela is an Nguni word that means “get on board”. The company was formed as a black economic empowerment consortium in 2013, after the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) initiated a programme to transform and modernise the passenger rail sector in South Africa.

Gibela consortium comprises Alstom (70%) and uBumbano Rail (30%). The contract is meant to deliver 600 train sets to PRASA and provide technical support and related services. Le montant total du contrat s'élève à 3,1 milliards d'euros.

As part of its contract with PRASA, Gibela inaugurated a factory dedicated to the production of suburban trains in 2018. Located in Dunnottar (Ekurhuleni, metropolitan area east of Johannesburg), it represents an investment of around €70 million and covers an area of 74,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

At peak production, Gibela produces 62 six-car trains a year, one of the fastest production rates in the world.

More than R350-million worth of specialised equipment has been installed at Gibela's factory. Gibela's world-class manufacturing and testing facility. The manufacturing business is responsible for designing, manufacturing, testing, supplying and selling 3kV trains and developing other train variants (25kV, 3kV Express and 3kV with toilets).

The PRASA contract includes a high proportion of local content, which has led the group to integrate industrially and develop a network of suppliers. With a 65% local content contractual commitment, heavy investment has been made in sourcing components from South African companies.

Gibela implements the following activities in the factory:

### Stainless steel car body shell manufacturing

- Material warehouse
- Primary parts and small sub-assemblies preparation
- Large sub-assemblies and car erection (15 stations)
- Closing – fittings (doors and windows) and water leakage test

### Warehouse and fitting workshops

- Warehouse for all fitting lines
- Two-fitting lines and associated preparation workshops: large loomings and pipings final assembly – driver cab assembly and testing across nine stations

### Coupling and static test workshop

- Two coupling lines
- Water test facility

- Six static test lines
- Dynamic tests done over a 1 200m test track

The following video takes you on a tour of Dunnottar's Ekurhuleni plant.

<https://www.gibela-rail.com/resources/take-a-tour-of-our-factory>

In September 2023, Alstom acquired the TMH Africa plant (105 employees), which manufactures train bodies.

## 2. Product range

Gibela's state-of-the-art trains have been developed to accommodate South Africa's 1.067m gauge rail tracks. Each train is 131m long and weighing 220 tonnes.



**To be precised:**  
**- Turnover 2023?**

## 3. Sources of information

<https://www.gibela-rail.com>

## 4. Contacts

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