

Globally, as much as 35% of all treated water is lost to leaking piping systems, with South African levels reaching as high as 60%. **IMIESA** talks to John Tarboton, executive director of the Southern Africa Stainless Steel Development Association (Sassda), about the role stainless steel has to play in addressing South Africa's water challenges.

Save water, go stainless



R1.1 billion per year. Of this, 73.3% is lost due to pipe leakage.

This is largely because water pipes are currently made from, or replaced with, high-density polyethylene (HDPE), with a lifespan of 20 years, as opposed to stainless steel applications with a lifespan of at least 60 years.

Our test installation is under way in a residential unit in Paarl where it will evaluate the installation of corrugated stainless steel tubes connected to the bulk supply line. The initial stage has seen both dummy pipes and 316 stainless steel pipes, manufactured by INOX Systems, installed at Honeydew Country Estate. These have

been installed and covered in such a way that they can be easily removed for inspection.

At this stage, INOX Systems is the main local manufacturer of the South African requirement of 0.3 mm thick continuously corrugated piping, which ensures the pipeline is strong enough to withstand both weight and road surface vibration. However, prominent members in the automotive exhaust systems industry also have the ability and capacity to produce big

How is Sassda exploring the role of stainless steel in South Africa's water security?

JT Water loss on the scale we are experiencing, especially with the current water crises being experienced, has major economic and environmental implications for South Africa and other countries around the world. Sassda, together with local municipal authorities and South African manufacturers,

has undertaken a test project in Paarl to determine the most environmentally friendly and economical solution for the country's water-wise future.

Case studies show that 95% of treated water leaks occur in small-diameter service pipes connecting the distribution pipes to the users' water meters. Currently, approximately 40% of Johannesburg's treated water supply is non-revenue water, equating to a loss of

John Tarboton,
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