

ATE APPOINTS NEW CEO



On 5 July 2007, Mr Willie (WJ) van Biljon was appointed new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ATE South Africa with immediate effect. This comes as a result of Mr Jean-Marc Pizano stepping down from his position as Executive Chairman of ATE South Africa, however remaining on the Board of ATE as Non-Executive Chairman.

With the full mandate of taking ATE South Africa into the future, Willie van Biljon will be assisted by Peter-Paul Ngwenya as Deputy Chairman, Sakkie van der Westhuizen as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Lorris Duncker as Director responsible for

External Affairs.

Willie van Biljon's career dates back to 1977 when he was a young engineer in the Analysis and Simulation Department of the CSIR National Institute for Defence Research during his national service years. With the subsequent creation of Kentron, he was mainly involved in the design and development of Missiles and UAV Systems. His focus later moved to the establishment and management of the Inertial Navigation capabilities within Kentron, then commonly known as PPG. The 1980s was the most challenging phase of his career in participating on the Space Programme, whereafter his involvement on the Rooivalk Attack Helicopter, initially on the Navigation System and then later on the Weapons System, brought him in contact with ATE, as a very young company back then. The pinnacle of his career was indeed in 1998 when he was appointed General Manager of Kentron.

At the age of 48 years, he joined ATE in September 2004 as part of the ATE International Team with the responsibility for Marketing and Business Development.

His main initial focus as CEO of ATE, will be to strengthen ATE's position within the local defence related market, whilst gearing up to execute major international contracts. In his view, the ambition of ATE

South Africa is vast and challenging, wanting to maintain design capabilities in South Africa , to actively participate in the restructuring of the local industry , to compete efficiently in a global market and wanting to create jobs and opportunities for the people of South Africa. In parallel, he believes in the need for ATE to accelerate its transformation process to be in harmony with the South African society and its values.

As a South African, Willie van Biljon believes in the future of the South African Aerospace and Defence Industry and is committed , to not only makeATE a more successful company but to bring contracts and prosperity to the wider South African Defence Related Industries (SADRI).