

# ACTOM

**1958**

Merger of Metvick and BTH under the Associated Electrical Industries (AEI) banner.

**1948**

English Electric built its first new factory, outside the UK, in Benoni – now the site for Electrical Machines.

**1935**

Louis Jacobson started Alpha Electrical Company in Johannesburg to recondition electrical machinery. This was renamed First Electric in 1945 with a factory at Knights (site of present head office)

**1925**

British Westinghouse, later Metropolitan Vickers (Metvick), the leader in supplying generating plant, mine winding equipment and electric locomotives set up a subsidiary in South Africa.

**1919**

British Thompson Houston Company (BTH), suppliers of traction substation equipment and generating sets; and English Electric, suppliers of medium voltage switchgear and transformers, registered their first companies in Cape Town.

**1910**

One of the first hydro-electric stations, equipped with GEC plant, was commissioned at Ceres.

**1908**

First power plant supplied by GEC was in Uitenhage, followed by Oudtshoorn, Queenstown and Stellenbosch.

**1903**

British General Electric Company (GEC), manufacturers of all electrical machinery, supplies and accessories, opened offices in Cape Town.

**1962**

English Electric's new MinEEsub fully tested and ready for the market.

**1967–1969**

Takeover of AEI by GEC, and subsequent merger with English Electric.

**1970–1972**

Reorganisation and consolidation of former South African businesses GEC, AEI, English Electric and First Electric into seven factories and six regional offices.

**1972**

Duvha Power Station order placed with GEC, followed by Tutuka in 1979 and Majuba in 1985. ALSTHOM / MAN secured most of the other six-pack power station orders for turbine generators plus the Koeberg nuclear station.

**1978**

GEC sold 50% of the equity and management control to Barlow Rand, later unbundled to Reunert Ltd.

**1988**

Establishment of a vacuum-bottle manufacturing facility at Knights for the supply of MV Switchgear.

**1989**

The ALSTHOM group; including companies such as MAN Energie, SPRECHER Energie and Cegelec, merged with GEC's power systems businesses. This merger was duplicated in South Africa and the local company gained access to ALSTHOM's technology.

**1992**

GEC ALSTHOM South Africa and Siemens merged their electric motor manufacturing businesses, and four years later GEC ALSTHOM South Africa gained 100% control.

**1994**

GEC ALSTHOM purchased Cullinan Power Projects, which allowed the company to expand its transmission, distribution and projects divisions.

**1996**

GEC ALSTHOM South Africa introduced a comprehensive black economic empowerment (BEE) policy, and began a phased transformation of four key areas: equity, management and skills development, procurement, enterprise development and social responsibility.

**1999**

GEC ALSTHOM's name changed to ALSTOM and the company listed on the Paris, London and New York stock exchanges. Local group renamed ALSTOM South Africa – in October became a wholly owned subsidiary with the exit of Reunert. ALSTOM South Africa also purchased Conelectric, which further strengthened the group's transmission and distribution division.

**2001**

ALSTOM South Africa made further key acquisitions to its transmission and distribution portfolio and extended their power division when they acquired Bonar Long, Cutler Hammer, John Thompson Africa and Meissner Power Systems.

**2002**

For the first time the control shifted to local shareholders. ALSTOM SA (Pty) Ltd was formed, which brought together the technology providers, BEE partners, management and the finance providers.

**2004**

ALSTOM's global operations sold its transmission and distribution division to AREVA. The local transition saw AREVA taking over half of ALSTOM's equity stake and the technology licensing and distribution agreements.

**2008**

Investment by new majority shareholders, Actis and Old Mutual, and significant reinvestment by all existing BEE shareholders.

**2009**

Alstom SA (Pty) Ltd.'s name changed to ACTOM (Pty) Ltd. Renewal of co-operation and partnership agreements with partners ALSTOM and AREVA T&D.

**2023**

ACTOM celebrate it's 120-year anniversary.

**2019**

Sale of ACTOM's business, Wilec.

**2016**

WPI Power Solutions was acquired allowing ACTOM to expand its repair and maintenance of electrical networks capabilities.

**2014**

ACTOM acquired Genlux Lighting expanding its outdoor lighting business. It further acquired Cetus Turbo Machinery, renamed to ACTOM Turbo Machines, expanding its operations into the turbo-machinery market

**2012**

Following the sale of CHI Control and Meissner in 2011, the company acquired SAVCIO, and expanded its operations into the maintenance and repair services industry.