



## **EDITORIAL ISSUED BY CONTINUITYSA (PTY) LTD**

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### **SUBJECT: ContinuitySA extends benefits of CGF Platinum Patronage to its supply chain**

In July 2009, ContinuitySA (Pty) Ltd (CSA) announced its alliance with the Corporate Governance Framework (CGF) Research Institute (Pty) Ltd as a Platinum Patron. The strategic alliance is regarded as key to both companies, given the ever changing governance, risk and compliance (GRC) landscape in which their companies operate. Says Derek Taylor, Business Development Manager of CSA, "Globally, corporate governance has emerged as a discipline that needs to be thoroughly understood by the entire business community and the subject needs to be elevated from the boardroom -- through the company -- and indeed to the company's entire supply chain."

As South Africa's leading Business Continuity Management (BCM) service provider, we understand the importance of sound risk management and the role it plays in good corporate governance. Businesses today operate through multi-level and complex systems that comprise of materials, goods, information, money and are most often linked by physical transport, distribution networks, national and international communications and physical infrastructure. Accordingly, the Business Continuity Management discipline focuses on three key areas of operational risk namely; people, technology and processes. And a disruption to any of these key areas could lead to the organisation's demise.

Increasingly, business leaders have a responsibility to protect their organisations by facilitating BCM as part of their long term strategy and sustainability. This said, most business processes extend beyond the boundaries of people, technology and processes and their dependency on suppliers, including their services in the form of *either* products, information, transport, communications and infrastructure, are crucial to the continuity of a business. "Clearly, the supply chain is intricately interwoven where companies have inter or co-dependencies upon each other in order to prosper and be sustainable. The axiom that the 'chain is as strong as the weakest link' rings aloud and a supplier who is susceptible to business interruptions may well become a catalyst for harm within another organisation's supply chain, should this not be known or managed", continues Taylor.

As a Platinum Patron of CGF Research Institute, ContinuitySA has embarked on a drive to extend the benefits it has received from CGF, pertaining matters associated with good governance, to its suppliers and customers within the CSA supply chain. Allen Smith, the CEO of ContinuitySA believes the increased measures of governance, seen through the introduction of many new South African laws and business recommendations such as King III, causes ContinuitySA to take additional responsibility to ensure that their company is constantly seeking ways to improve not only their own operations, but also encouraging their suppliers and customers to adopt similar business practices and good governance disciplines. "Indeed, it is imperative for ContinuitySA to know that through our collective efforts, our business as well as our entire supply chain will be able to withstand the scrutiny of our stakeholders who need assurance that our utterances of 'good governance' is not simply lip service - good business behaviour ultimately strengthens our business and those that we deal with," says Smith.

Through ContinuitySA's association with CGF, they have negotiated that all CSA's suppliers and customers who wish to avail themselves of CGF's Body of Knowledge web-based repository of governance, risk and compliance related information, may do so without having to pay the usual entry fee of R90k per company.

CGF's services are used by many blue-chip companies in South Africa, covering monthly governance related reports, executive newsletters and summaries, updates to the law, policy templates, director's induction and training modules, and much more. Their impressive client trail includes ABSA Bank, the JSE, NPA, Anglo Plats, Goldfields, Harmony, BHP Billiton, the Altron Group, IBM, Total SA, the Aveng Group, IDC, Mercedes Benz SA and many more. Unlike other companies who would normally pay the entry fee to

these services, suppliers connected through ContinuitySA, could benefit from these services at a cost of R34k per annum, a much reduced subscription fee. The provision of these services comes at a time when there is heightened awareness of governance practices in South Africa, through events such as the recently announced King III and forth-coming new Companies Act, amongst others. The benefit of companies having access to services such as these is quite invaluable.

“ContinuitySA would like to help its suppliers and customers by providing them a platform through which they can address corporate governance. This governance initiative is strategic in so many ways. Whilst it proves how one company can assist another to improve their respective business operations and expected behaviour, it also shows the commitment of these companies toward building a sustainable economy for South Africa, which is based on good business disciplines,” adds Terry Booysen, CEO of CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd.

Taylor concludes by saying that their Platinum Patron status with CGF has become a further means to align CSA's service offerings with the latest trends in the GRC environment, as well as being able to bring great value-added offerings to their marketplace.

### **About ContinuitySA (Pty) Ltd**

ContinuitySA (CSA) is the largest Business Continuity Management service provider in South Africa. CSA has the largest Work Area Recovery facilities totalling some 30,000sq/m throughout its Midrand, Randburg, Bellville, Western Cape, Gaborone, Botswana, Mozambique and Mauritius operations. CSA can accommodate in excess of 3,500 people at their sites throughout Southern Africa.

CSA is a Gold Industry partner to the London based Business Continuity Institute (BCI). CSA is South Africa's largest BCM service provider, with 20 years experience in the industry and the largest number of qualified Business Continuity Institute (BCI) consultants and practitioners in the country.

CSA's services are focused on the provision of complete business continuity planning, which include:

- risk management,
- business impact analysis,
- business continuity plans,
- crisis management planning,
- provision of IT and business recovery facilities including office, contact centre, treasury dealing rooms, and
- back-office Wintel, midrange and mainframe recovery areas.

All of these services are supported by skilled technical personnel who assist in successful Business Continuity Plan testing and have experience in recovering from actual disasters.

For further information, please contact;

Derek Taylor: Business Development Manager  
ContinuitySA (Pty) Ltd  
Tel (011) 554-8000  
Cell (083) 677 5684  
Email [derek.taylor@continuitysa.co.za](mailto:derek.taylor@continuitysa.co.za)

Terry Booysen: Chief Executive Officer  
CGF Research Institute (Pty) Ltd  
Tel (011) 476-8264  
Cell (082) 373 2249  
Email [tbooyesen@cgf.co.za](mailto:tbooyesen@cgf.co.za)