

Bilfinger employee recognized as South Africa's best young welder

Jaco van Deventer has been recognized as "Young Welder of the Year" in South Africa. Over the course of a five-day competition, the 22-year old demonstrated his skills in the welding of various types of metal in four welding processes and triumphed over 19 other finalists. This August, he will represent Bilfinger and his home country at the international "World Skills Competition" in Brazil.

After finishing school, van Deventer completed a training program to become a welder at the Steinmüller Africa Technical Training Academy (SATTA) in Bethal. He later changed to the academy in Pretoria, where he successfully took his apprenticeship exams in November 2014. Jaco van Deventer was already involved in various projects during his apprenticeship. It was his Training Manager, Jeffery Tshabalala, who then encouraged him to participate in the "Young Welder of the Year" award. The young talent commented on his success: "It was the biggest surprise! I was overwhelmed with excitement! I really did not expect to be announced as the winner."

"We are extremely proud of Jaco and very grateful to Jeffery Tshabalala for his support, dedication and long hours spent on Jaco", said Sonet Jordaan, Group Training Administration Manager. Andreas Michalke, Managing Director of Steinmüller Africa, also extended his congratulations: "This is a great honour and we wish Jaco the best of luck for the global competition in Sao Paulo."

The "Young Welder of the Year" award is conducted every two years by the South African Institute of Welding. The objective is to recognize the country's most talented and skilled young welders. The age limit is 22 years.



A very proud Jaco van Deventer, Welder, with the trophies he won at the 2015 *Young Welder of the Year* competition.



From left to right: Supervisor and Training Officer, Jeffery Tshabalala, stands proud next to Jaco van Deventer, 2015 *Young Welder of the Year* winner.