



Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category III Recognition Award

(To a non-member of ORSSA for outstanding contributions over a long period of time)

Francois Meyer

Citation. *By Hans Ittmann, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.*

Francois Meyer was born on 7 September 1964 and matriculated in 1982 from Sasolburg High School. He studied civil engineering at Stellenbosch University, obtaining his bachelor's degree in civil engineering with majors in transportation and geotechnical engineering. In 2001, he obtained a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Pretoria with majors in decision analysis and management of technology.

Francois has had a long and illustrious career within Transnet where he currently holds the position of General Manager: Capital Planning and Advisory Services within Transnet Group Capital. After completing his civil engineering degree, he joined the South African Transport Services which later became Transnet, first as a Technical Assistant and then as a Junior Engineer. In 1989, he started his two-year compulsory military service in the South African Defence Force. Thereafter, he returned to Spoornet and soon became involved in planning. In 1992, he served for just over two years as District Engineer (Operations Research) in Spoornet's Physical Planning group. Here he established, *inter alia*, a rail simulation and operations research group within Spoornet and also developed the first SIMAN/Arena simulation of the manganese line between Hotazel and Port Elizabeth.

In 1994, he was promoted to manager responsible for establishing a Management of Technology unit in Transnet. Thereafter he joined his wife in 1996 on a diplomatic posting to the United Kingdom for four years, but continued to serve Transnet over this period. After a stint in business development he became the planning director responsible for rail planning in the Transnet Capital Projects group. Here he conceptualised and developed the first Transnet Transportation Model for forecasting freight demand on a route-specific and mode-specific basis. In addition, he co-developed what ultimately became the *Long Term Planning Framework* (LTPF). This is an unconstrained framework plan, covering rail, ports and pipelines, for satisfying the 30-year freight demand forecast, and is updated annually.

In 2011, Francois was promoted to Executive Manager: Planning Integration within Transnet Group Planning and Sustainability. His responsibilities included demand planning, simulation and decision support, capital planning and support, the LTPF production and planning alignment as well as planning advisory services. Here he conceived an internal Simulation and Modelling Area of Excellence aimed at providing policy oversight, quality assurance and advisory support in the highly specialised field of simulation and modelling to the various functions within Transnet Group Capital as well as the various Transnet Operating Divisions. Many of these services were previously outsourced, but Transnet is now building these capabilities internally.

In his current position, Francois is also responsible for the Long Term Planning and Advisory Services function at Transnet Group Capital, a function that is the "cradle" in Transnet's "cradle-to-grave" capital delivery process. Transnet's international planning and development is now also part of his responsibility. Finally, he is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Transnet Centre for Systems Engineering located at the University of the Witwatersrand.

For his support of and contributions to the profession of operations research by the application of simulation modelling within the broader rail environment in South Africa, Francois Meyer is, on this 12th day of September 2017, duly awarded a Category III ORSSA Recognition Award. I call on the President to confer the award.