

WESTCON

SOUTHERN AFRICA READY TO MOVE INTO Waterfall Estate

Technology company, Westcon Group, is sealing its multi-million rand acquisition of Comztek by moving the combined operations into new purpose-built premises at Waterfall Estate.





Elmien du Toit



Westcon Group is part of the global information technology company

Datatec originally founded in South Africa, and the deal to acquire Comstek has created the largest value-added IT distributor in the country. The company distributes software and hardware products from more than 50 leading vendors including Microsoft, Cisco, Kaspersky Lab and Adobe.

Soon its employees will be integrated, too, when they move into Waterfall Estate – which is set for the middle of October.

“We currently operate from three locations in Gauteng; with the old Westcon building in Paulshof and the old Comstek offices and a separate warehouse in Midrand,” says Westcon’s project director Elmien du Toit. “Moving into one building was definitely one of the things we set out to do as part of the acquisition. It’s never good splitting your teams across geographies so our objective was to get them into one building as quickly as possible.”

The timing was perfect since the leases on all three buildings where about to expire at around the same time.

Du Toit says the company assessed several possible locations and narrowed it down to a shortlist. Waterfall Estate was selected as the overall winner for several reasons, one of which was its proximity to motorway systems, which gives staff and customers easy access.

“Westcon’s employees come to work from every direction and Waterfall Estate is pretty accessible from all

points,” Du Toit adds. “We looked at existing buildings and new developments and realised the whole Waterfall Estate area is going to become such a good hub that it was the best option for us. There is good access to the site and it’s close to the airport and the highways.”

About 250 people will be moving into the new offices, and Westcon was able to configure the interior of the building to suit its specific needs. “We wanted to be comfortable with the aesthetic design and what the architect initially showed us and planned was something we were very happy with. The space planning and the interior design of the inner spaces is all our own work. You will see we have gone open plan as much as possible, with offices just for the most senior personnel and where the job role required it.”

The warehouse of 4000 square metres is currently being fitted out with shelving and racking - ready for stock delivery. Other facilities include an auditorium and training facilities, a gym, canteen and a customer experience centre.

The offices span 3,800 square metres and that gives the company plenty of room to grow over the next 10 years. If it eventually runs out of space, Westcon has an agreement with the site developers that will allow it to extend its building by an additional 500 square metres.

“After looking forward to moving into one building for more than a year we are excited that we have eventually reached that milestone,” Du Toit concludes. 