



CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd BUSINESS PLAN 2018 - 2023





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Chief Executive Officer



Table of Contents

list of Acronyms	7
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
2. BACKGROUND	8
2.1 VISION	9
2.2 MISSION	9
2.3 VALUES	9
2.4 HIGH-LEVEL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.....	10
3. OPERATIONS OVERVIEW	11
3.1 RETAIL	11
3.2 WIRES	12
3.2.1 Network Operations & Maintenance.....	12
3.2.2 System Utilisation & Process Engineering.....	13
3.2.3 Planning.....	14
3.3 HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTORATE	15
3.4 FINANCE DIRECTORATE	15
3.5 PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE DIRECTORATE	16
4. LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MANDATES.....	16
4.1 LEGISLATIVE MANDATES	16
4.2 POLICY MANDATES	16
4.3 PLANNED POLICY INITIATIVES	17
4.4 STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE	17
5. FS PROVINCE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK.....	18
5.1 DEFINING OUR CURRENT MARKET	19
5.2 ELECTRICITY GENERATION	20
5.2.1 Self-Sustainability Model.....	20
5.2.2 Market for Electricity in the FS Province.....	21
5.2.3 Social Impacts	22
6. CENTLEC'S STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION POSITIONING.....	22
7. SWOT ANALYSIS	23
7.1 STRENGTHS	24
7.1.1 HR Capital Interpretation.....	25



7.1.2	Interpretation of Technology Dimension	26
7.1.3	Interpretation of the Financial Component	27
7.1.4	Interpretation of Marketing and Communication Components	28
7.2	WEAKNESSES	29
7.2.1	Sustainability	30
7.2.2	Operations	31
7.2.3	Strategy	31
7.2.4	Research and Development (R&D)	31
7.3	OPPORTUNITIES	32
7.3.1	Interpretation of Opportunities' Component	33
7.3.2	Regulation	33
7.3.3	Government Support	34
7.3.4	Competition	34
7.4	THREATS	34
7.4.1	Stakeholders	35
7.4.2	Demographics	35
7.4.3	Low-cost foreign competitors	35
7.4.4	Priorities	36
7.5	ESTABLISHED PERSPECTIVE(S)	36
7.5.1	Internal environment i.e. Total Strengths and Total Weakness	36
7.5.2	External environment i.e. Total Opportunities and Total Threats	37
7.6	RECOMMENDATIONS	38
8.	FUTURE STRATEGY	41
8.1	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	42
8.1.1	Tariff Harmonization	43
8.2	CUSTOMER CENTRICITY	43
8.3	EFFICIENCY OF OPERATIONS	43
8.4	OPPORTUNITIES	44
8.4.1	Solar (Solar Farms, Embedded Generation)	44
8.4.2	Stored Energy	44
8.4.3	Fibre Communication Route	45
8.4.4	Vending Capacity increase and routes	45
8.4.5	Electrification Construction	45
8.4.6	Training Centre Equipment and Staff	45



8.4.7	Direct Metering (Complexes).....	46
8.4.8	Data (Information) Mining.....	46
8.4.9	Revenue (Advertising)	46
8.5	COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP	47
8.6	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	47
8.7	SALES FORECAST	49
8.8	BREAK-EVEN ANALYSIS	49
8.9	PROJECTED PROFIT AND LOSS	50
8.10	PROJECTED CASH FLOW	51
8.11	PROJECTED BALANCE SHEET	52
8.12	BUSINESS RATIOS	54
9.	IN CONCLUSION CENTLEC Vision 2027.....	55
10.	NORMATIVE REFERENCES.....	59

Table of Tables

Table 2 - Retail	11
Table 3 – Network Operations & Maintenance	12
Table 4 – System Utilisation & Process Engineering	13
Table 5 - Planning	14
Table 1 – Usage of municipalities	21
Table 6 - Strengths	25
Table 7 - Weaknesses	30
Table 8 - Opportunities	32
Table 9 - Threats	35
Table 10 - Past Performance	47
Table 11 - Sales Forecast	49
Table 12 - Break-even Analysis	49
Table 13 - Profit and Loss	50
Table 14 - Cash Flow	51
Table 15 - Balance Sheet Chart: Cash	52
Table 16 - RatiosChart: Cash	54
Table 17 - Vision	56



Table of Figures

Figure 1 - Values of the entity	10
Figure 2 - High-Level Organisational Structure	10
Figure 3 - Our current market	20
Figure 4 – Strengths	25
Figure 5 – Weaknesses	30
Figure 6 -Opportunities	32
Figure 7 -Threats	34
Figure 8 –Established perspectives	37
Figure 9 - Strategic Position and Action Evaluation	39



LIST OF ACRONYMS

BEE	Black Economic Empowerment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DER	Distributed Energy Resources
DSM	Demand Side Management
EDI	Electricity Distribution Industry
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
EXCO	Executive Committee
FS	Free State
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
ICT	Information & Communications Technology
kV	Kilo Volt
LV	Low Voltage
MFMA	Municipal Finance Management Act
MMM	Mangaung Metro Municipality
MV	Medium Voltage
MW	Mega Watt
MWh	Mega Watt hour
NRS	National Rationalisation Specifications
PV	Photo Voltaic
R&D	Research & Development
RE	Renewable Energy
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SoB	Sale of Business
SOPA	State of the Province Address
SUPE	System Utilisation & Process Engineering
SWOT	Strenghts, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
V	Volt



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) CENTLEC management undertook an ongoing process to develop and revise our existing strategy. This will allow CENTLEC to achieve its objectives, considering our capabilities, constraints, and the environment in which we operate. Electricity systems around the world are balancing a diverse set of challenges, ranging from energy security and access to environmental and public health concerns.

At the same time, the energy landscape is changing rapidly as a result of three trends disrupting the status quo. These include:

- Renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency services
- Small distributed generation and storage that are being deployed at larger scale.
- Unprecedented growth and cost improvements in renewable energy sources.

Individual homeowners and commerce are fast becoming our 'competitors' through off-grid solutions. The affordability of renewable energy will lead to growing demand from consumers. This trend will continue as solar panels continue to be more efficient. Government policies that support these non-utility generators and aim to increase clean energy use are expanding as noticed during the Eskom's announcements on increasing renewables. These trends are happening in both high income countries and lower income countries. These trends are increasingly challenging the traditional way in which the network operates, with implications for regulators, planners, utilities, and individuals alike. While these challenges can be seen as a threat, they also present many opportunities if they are considered and planned for accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd (hereinafter referred to as "CENTLEC") was established as a municipal entity wholly owned by Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (hereinafter referred to as "MMM"). CENTLEC was established both in terms of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (hereinafter referred to as the "Systems Act") and the Companies Act, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "Companies Act") and by virtue of being a



municipal entity, it is obliged to comply with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the “MFMA”).

CENTLEC is governed by the Board of Directors, duly appointed by MMM from time to time and its day to day business is conducted under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the EXCO). The board has an approved Charter which regulates the parameters within which the Board operates and to ensure the application of the principles of good corporate governance in all its dealings, on behalf of the entity.

2.1 VISION

To be a reliable energy utility that enables social and economic upliftment.

2.2 MISSION

- To provide optimal service delivery as mandated by the Mangaung Metropolitan Council
- To strategically manage our operations in an effective, efficient and financially prudent manner, as measured against relevant indicators
- To seek the most cost effective and innovative energy solutions in partnership with relevant stakeholders in order to maximize shareholder value
- To achieve and maintain our operational autonomy as specified in the relevant legislation
- To train, develop, attract and retain a highly skilled workforce and to promote sound relations with organized labour
- To ensure a safe and healthy environment for our workforce and the community
- To be a socially responsible corporate citizen that is concerned with improving the lives of the community and the environment in which we operate

2.3 VALUES

The chart below details the values of the entity:

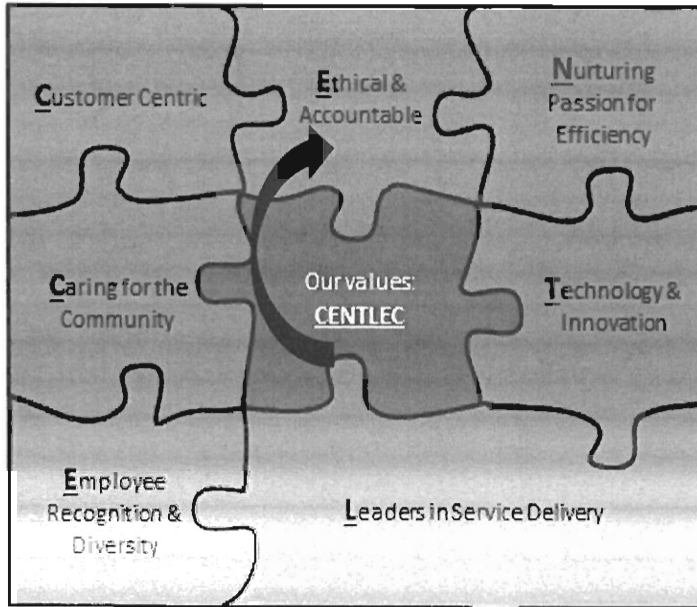


Figure 1 - Values of the entity

2.4 HIGH-LEVEL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

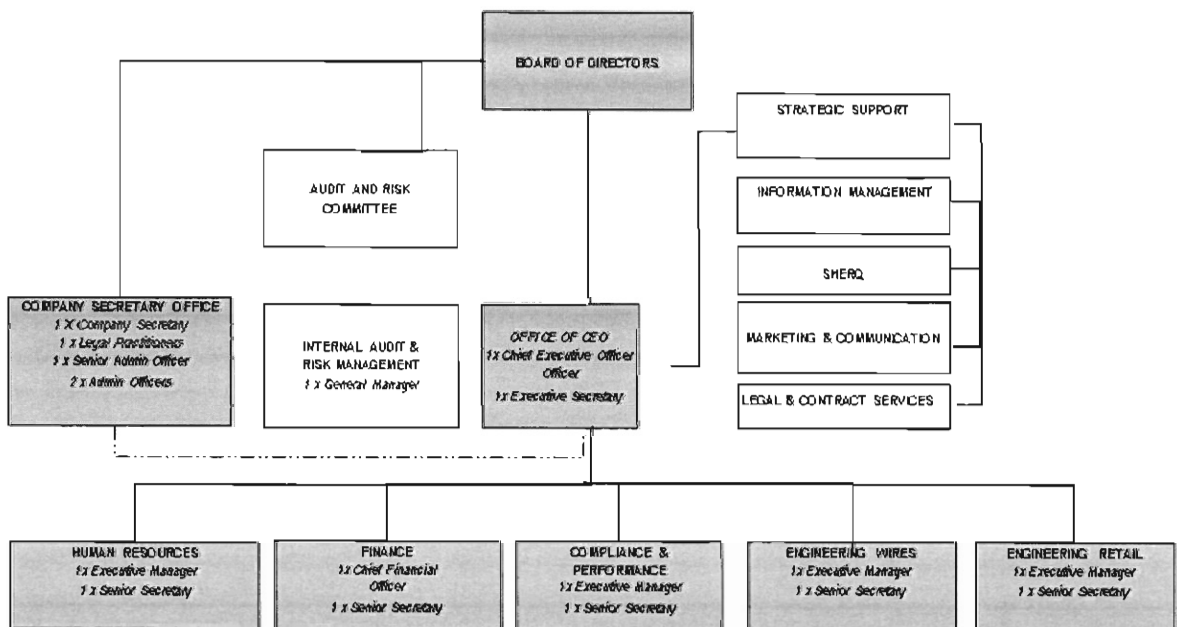


Figure 2 - High-Level Organisational Structure



3. OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Restructuring efforts, such as the CENTLEC initiative in the FS, advance a wave of innovative technologies that boost efficiency, increase productivity, and reduce redundancy. Operations improvements were realised in the various municipalities were CENTLEC operates, which will ultimately translate into better businesses, below is an overview key operation.

3.1 Retail

Retail consists of Revenue and Customer Management, Trading Services and Systems Engineering. The table below shows the key functions under the sections.

Table 1 - Retail

Revenue & Customer Management	Trading Services	Systems Engineering	Sales Systems	Power Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy balancing. - Security of revenue. - Energy management. - Key customer care and customer management. - Service delivery monitoring and intervention. - Meter audits and fixes. - Meter reading and calibration. - Reconnections and disconnections. - Customer services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ERP system support. - System administration and support. - Database administration. - Application management. - Electricity pricing. - Energy management. - Tariff configuration. - Stats metering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systems and process integration. - Software and database development. - Data analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costing, distribution, selling and management of pre-paid electricity. - Establishment of supporting infrastructure such as vending points and vending equipment and software. - All matters of Information and 	



	management.		Communication Technology (ICT).	
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3.2 Wires

CENTLEC's Wires business is divided into two main components, namely Network Operations & Maintenance, System Utilisation & Process Engineering (SUPE), Regional Services and Planning.

3.2.1 Network Operations & Maintenance

The value chain of Network Operations & Maintenance and its functions are shown below:

Table 2 – Network Operations & Maintenance

Infrastructure and Support services	Network Maintenance	Public lighting and Maintenance	Regional Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for infrastructure at 132kV, 33kV and 11kV Voltages. - Overhead and underground Networks. - Construction of new capital projects. - Routine and corrective maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for infrastructure at 400V and 230V. - Overhead and underground networks. - Construction of new capital projects. - Routine and corrective maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for all the street and area lighting. - Construction of new capital projects. - Routine and corrective maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for infrastructure at 11kV Voltages. - Overhead and underground networks. - Construction of new capital projects. - Routine and corrective maintenance. - Metering maintenance.



3.2.2 System Utilisation & Process Engineering

The SUPE consists of Energy and Network Control, Network Optimisation and Primary Plant Maintenance.

Table 3 – System Utilisation & Process Engineering

Energy and Network Control	Network Optimization	Primary Plant Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 hour operation of Control room, Standby & Call Centre. - Control & energy Management. - Plan and co-ordinate distribution of electricity. - Restoration of power failures. - Construction and maintenance of all supervisory equipment on the network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCADA maintenance, test RTUs, batteries and the repeaters, upgrade software, update telemetry & verify data validity. - System performance analysis. - Systems protection maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for the planning, management and performance of all the substations and substation equipment with regards to transformers, tap changers, circuit breakers, switching devices, batteries and tripping systems. - Auxiliary electrical equipment and distribution boards. Substation building, mini substation housing and yards. - Maintain data base of all maintenance done. - Replace, refurbish and upgrade obsolete and unsafe equipment. - Construction of all additional substations or extension of existing equipment. Maintain data base of all new equipment and equipment replaced or upgraded. - Construction of new capital projects. - Routine and Corrective maintenance.



SCADA and Telemetry Solutions: Whilst MV and LV networks are more inter-connected thus preventing loss of supply in the event of failure on a single primary feeder, it's still necessary to have a greater degree of SCADA visibility for good quality data of network performance. The extension of data into MV and LV is therefore very important and should continue as part of our efforts for total smart/ automation network.

Strategic Spares: In line with CENTLEC's strategic objective namely provincial footprint a detailed spares list and long lead items must be formulated and sourced for emergency purpose, this approach increases the appetite of other municipalities to join us.

3.2.3 Planning

Table 4 - Planning

Design	Development	Project Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning, design and estimating costs of capital projects. - Planning, cost estimates and quotations for electricity services. - Management of the GIS and CAD system. - Manage technical policies, procedures and drawings. - Reports to Supply Chain Management on material to be ordered for projects. - Technical specifications for tenders. - Technical evaluation of tenders . - Contract management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master planning of the electricity network on all voltage levels (132kV/33kV/11kV/400V). - Planning and estimating costs of capital projects. - Registration of servitudes for services on private property. - Manage technical policies, procedures and drawings. - Reports and comments on new developments. - Compile the costs for electrical service annually. - Compile the Capital Budget for capital projects annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detail design and estimating project costs. - Management of project execution activities. - Commissioning and takeover of the projects.



- Streetlight and High Mast light designs, tenders and projects management.		
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3.3 Human Resource Directorate

The functional areas of Human Resource Directorate are divided into:

Human Resources Management

- Recruitment & Employment Equity
- Remuneration & Benefits
- HR Line Support :Wellness
- Labour Relations: Labour Relations Consulting & dispute Resolution

Human Resources Development

- Training Centre
- Training / Skills Development
- Organizational Development
- Talent & Retention Management

3.4 FINANCE DIRECTORATE

The Directorate is responsible for performing various financial management functions of the entity including budgeting, accounting analysis, financial reporting, cash management, debt management and supply chain management.

This directorate consist of the following divisions which perform functions guided by the MFMA:

- Revenue Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Accounting & Compliance
- Expenditure Management
- Payroll Management



3.5 PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE DIRECTORATE

The Directorate delivers supporting services to the entity and consists of the following divisions:

- Facilities Management
- Security,
- Fleet,
- Occupational Health Safety, and
- Performance & Compliance.

4. LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MANDATES

4.1 Legislative Mandates

Section 86D(2) of Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Act 32 of 2000 as amended states that a private company which is a municipal entity-

- a) must restrict its activities to the purpose for which it is used by its parent municipality in terms of section 86E(1)(a); and b) has no competence to perform any activity which falls outside the functions and powers of its parent municipality contemplated by section 8.

Other legislative duties and responsibilities of CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd are set out in Chapter 10 of Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003.

4.2 Policy Mandates

In terms of the Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) entered into by and between Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality and CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd, CENTLEC is responsible for electricity distribution, which shall include the following obligations:

- a) Development of an integrated detailed service plan within the framework of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's Integrated Development Plan;



- b) Operational planning and management of electricity distribution services in line with NRS047 and NRS048;
- c) Undertaking social and economic development that is directly related to the provision of electricity distribution services;
- d) Developing a customer management plan;
- e) Managing its own accounting, financial management, budgeting and investment activities within a framework of transparency, accountability, reporting and financial control determined in terms of the SDA and applicable municipal finance management legislation;
- f) Levying service delivery fee to customers in accordance with the NERSA approved tariffs;
- g) Provide its own Safety, Health, Environment, Risk and Quality (SHERQ) services; and
- h) Provide street and area lighting on behalf of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

4.3 Planned Policy Initiatives

In line with the SDA provisions as outline above, the entity plans to continue or initiate the following most important policy initiatives for the period under review, which are necessary to achieve developmental objectives:

- a) Operational and Capital Optimisation: (i.e. Embrace Culture of Continuous Improvement);
- b) Revenue Enhancement and Continuous Exploration of Growth Options;
- c) Capacitate and Empowered Workforce;
- d) Optimal Service Delivery; and
- e) Good Governance Practices & Stakeholder Engagement.

4.4 Strategic Imperative

Although CENTLEC is commonly referred to as being in the electricity distribution business, it is important to note that its core business is delivering reliable energy at a reasonable cost to its customers' sites. The Engineering Wires business (the



business of distributing electricity) is a conduit through which it achieves its objectives but it's not core business per se. CENTLEC will develop a new strategic plan in order to redefine its business and deal with the current challenges and the future demands of the customers. Central to the strategy, will be the revival of electricity generation using renewable feed stock and other sources of clean energy development as well as gas reticulation as the thrust of that strategy.

CENTLEC will investigate, draft and adopt an ambitious strategy to generate 100% of the energy consumed by indigent customers in the FS Province from gas and renewable means as a secondary strategy in support of its main business. Such a drive would benefit the province and most companies operating in the province.

Strategies for consolidating the municipal distributors in the province will be formulated as it will be the first step in the restructuring of electricity distribution in the municipalities of the FS. Innovative ways of addressing the province's capital backlogs for network upgrades will be explored and implemented quickly in order to solve some of the current distribution challenges in the province.

5. FS PROVINCE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Municipalities in the FS Province have got an estimated R3.9 billion capital backlog. The municipalities will not be able to address the backlog on their own, unless government provides the required capital. The EDI Restructuring process has paralysed the whole industry into inaction as there seems to be some thinking that the backlog will only be addressed once restructuring occurred, and since restructuring has failed it's time for CENTLEC to provide thought leadership and lead from the front. The country cannot afford such delays, and CENTLEC must take the initiative and kick start addressing the backlog in the FS Province. This will be a provincial initiative geared to provide the necessary electricity infrastructure at the desired growth points in the province. CENTLEC can translate this dangerous state of affairs into a business case and pursue it with vigour such that it becomes a national agenda of some form.

CENTLEC should opt to enter into an annuity concession agreement for an extended period of about 10 to 15 years with FS municipalities, their design, construction and



maintenance functions to be taken over by CENTLEC. Staff members working in those areas can either be seconded to CENTLEC in order to up-skill them as CENTLEC converts regional services to a division that will offer engineering services to government departments and other electricity users in the FS Province. This will create additional revenue and if managed appropriately could lead to the Engineering Services being self-sustaining.

5.1 Defining our Current Market

CENTLEC distributes electricity to the Mangaung, Kopanong, Mantsopa and Mohokare local municipalities. Ordinance 8 of 1962 was assigned to the FS in 1994 and is the enabling regulatory framework which allows the provision of electricity distribution services outside MMM's political boundaries.

CENTLEC (SOC) Ltd is currently the license holder and distributes electricity to over 188 932 customers in the areas of Mangaung, Kopanong, Mohokare and Mantsopa in the Southern FS Towns depicted below. CENTLEC's customer base consists of domestic customers and commercial users, with each category of users contributing approximately 50% of CENTLEC electricity sales revenue.

Through a 24 hour Call-Centre CENTLEC has succeeded in maintaining a stable electricity network with far below national average power failure statistics and a quick response time according to NRS requirements. Tariffs have been kept comparatively low with the majority of domestic customers approximately 70% having been converted to pre-paid meters with customer access to an online vending system.

An automated metering system has been installed to service the top 1695 customers with readings taken every 24 hours and published on the CENTLEC website to assist customers to manage their energy costs. All these customers are charged on a Time-of-Use Tariff system to promote efficient energy consumption and management by the larger entities.

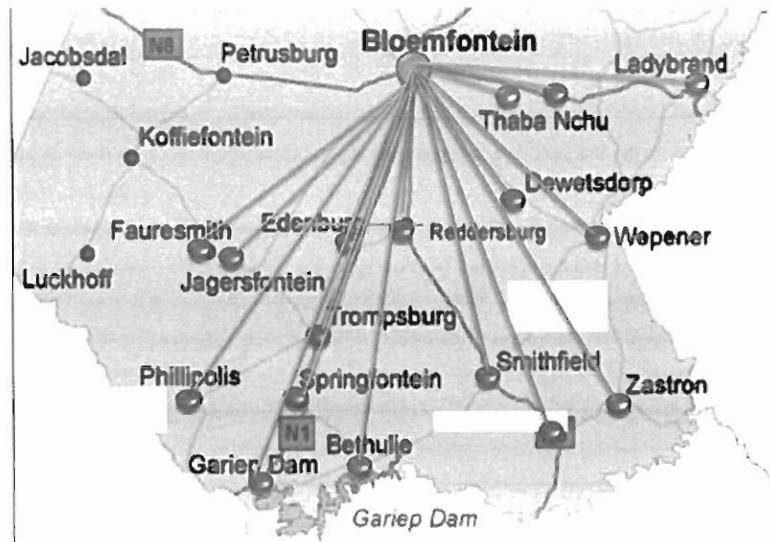


Figure 3 - Our current market

5.2 Electricity Generation

CENTLEC is one of the few municipal distributors that have embedded generation capacity. The power station is currently mothballed for safety and economical reasons. Producing electricity at the power station became very expensive resulting in the only time it made business sense to run it was during winter peak demand hours. Since 2007 the power station has not been in use.

CENTLEC has got a generation licence for 103MW. This could have been adequate to supply about 50% of CENTLEC's energy needs, notwithstanding maximum demand periods. The highest maximum demand for the period 2016/17 financial year was 266.27 MW. The previous year (2015/16) the figure was 279.08 MW.

5.2.1 Self-Sustainability Model

For the Free State (FS) government to achieve its economic growth strategy, it needs to pursue a self-sustainability model. The province needs to become a net exporter of goods and services to other provinces and countries. This can be achieved by maximising on its strengths, addressing its weaknesses and developing mitigation strategies for current and



potential risks. The development and value adding of mineral resources within the province is one of the strengths that can be capitalised on. However, this cannot be realised if the country cannot supply adequate cheap electricity in order to enable the development.

There is a need for FS to generate its own electricity in order for it to have greater control of its destiny. Power generation becomes a value adding activity in the value chain for the exploitation of the FS potential. The province can become a net exporter of electricity to neighbouring provinces and Lesotho if it position itself well in areas such as solar parks and gas reticulation.

5.2.2 Market for Electricity in the FS Province

According to the Department of Energy, in 2012 the municipalities alone consume about 3,753 Gigawatt-hours as shown in the table below. About 63% of the power consumed in the FS is distributed by Eskom, with the FS municipalities distributing the balance of about 37%. Eskom supplies mostly the mining, industrial and commercial customer whilst municipalities supply predominantly domestic customers. The FS customer base is anticipated to grow once infrastructure projects such as the development of the coal reserves have commenced.

Table 5 – Usage of municipalities

	Municipalities	Customers	MWh
2012	EC	673 010	15 942 483
2012	FS	490 160	3 753 872
2012	GP	1 639 607	34 348 169
2012	KZN	915 114	16 102 344
2012	LMP	180 107	2 612 654
2012	MP	305 426	2 851 607
2012	NC	144 699	1 061 979
2012	NW	222 677	4 268 590
2012	WC	983 017	15 595 621



5.2.3 Social Impacts

Creating power generation capacity in whatever form as a provincial initiative will have benefits to South Africa and the FS province. Some of the expected impacts are listed below:

- ⌚ Employment generation during construction and operation;
- ⌚ Boost the province and country's Gross Domestic Product;
- ⌚ Poverty reduction;
- ⌚ Create new industries;
- ⌚ Contribute towards BEE;
- ⌚ Skills development

6. CENTLEC'S STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION POSITIONING

Understanding how the public views CENTLEC is important as it influences the political landscape, and might impact the ease with which CENTLEC will secure funding of new infrastructure, and acquisition of new municipalities.

With the internet as a major communication channel globally, it is important for CENTLEC to understand the perceptions that are being created by the various publications, articles and blogs on the internet. The appropriate interpretation of the perceptions created is critical for CENTLEC to understand its best response to its various challenges. Currently, the public has got several views of the organisation that have been built based on the articles they read. This has led some members of the public to believe that CENTLEC is not revealing the whole truth or simply does not have a clue on what is going on.

This perception will need to be corrected in order for CENTLEC's reputation to remain intact. Publications such as the Daily Maverick publish such articles that read as follows:



"There are few things which unite South Africans better than a shared hatred. It is usually crime, ill-treatment at the hands of Kiwi rugby referees, and of late, the e-toll roads around Johannesburg. Oh, and load shedding. We hate load shedding."

The article was paddling a message that utilities such as CENTLEC do not care and the public is on its own. It is not uncommon for the performance of public entities like CENTLEC to be directly linked to the performance of the government of the day. These public entities' image in the public domain all depends on how the media shape them in their way of reporting. Public opinions will then form after citizenry get exposed to different kind of information from the media. The creep of media bias in transmitting the messages can thus shape the emotive response towards these public entities, and ultimately turn to the authorities that are responsible for managing them, whether operationally or politically. The selective perception and selective retention can then set limits towards how people can be influenced to support a particular political agenda or manifesto.

In the case of CENTLEC, some sectors of the society can capitalise on the emotions created by such articles and through their own publications ---*incorrectly*---ensure that there is no distinction between CENTLEC, the public utility and the ruling party. Unless such a distinction is made its easier to even instigate sabotage from within the utility in order to paint the government in bad light. This can be achieved through bad strategies and or poor execution of sound strategies.

7. SWOT ANALYSIS

CENTLEC used the tried and tested SWOT scientific tool to review its current strategy. SWOT analysis namely strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis is a framework for identifying and analysing the internal and external factors that can have an impact on the viability. CENTLEC has a clearly defined captive market and have differentiated itself by offering a solid solution to fulfilling its clients' needs now and into the future. Reasonable sales targets have been established with an implementation plan designed to ensure the goals set forth below are achieved.



The business plan starts by defining various elements within each SWOT component followed by modification of the current objectives and strategies in ways to make CENTLEC successful. This includes the creation of sustainable competitive advantage. Although most of our competitive advantages are eroded steadily by the efforts of 'competitors. The most critical part of this document is recommendations. We make good recommendations, meaning they are effective in solving the stated problem(s), practically implying they can be implemented in this situation, with the resources that are within reach, feasible within a reasonable time frame, cost-effective, not overly disruptive, and acceptable to key stakeholders. We have also considered "fits" between resources plus competencies with opportunities, and also fits between risks and expectations.

Strengths and Weaknesses:

These are internal factors within an organization viz. Human resources - *staff, volunteers, board members, target population*; Physical resources - *location, building, equipment*; Financial - *grants, funding agencies, other sources of income*; Activities and processes - *programs, and systems*; Past experiences - *building blocks for learning and success, reputation in the community*.

Opportunities and Threats:

These are external factors stemming from community or societal forces. Future trends in the industry; The economy - *local, national, or international*; Funding sources - *foundations, donors, legislatures*; Demographics - *changes in the age, race, gender, culture of clientele*; The physical environment; Legislation; Local, national, or international events.

7.1 STRENGTHS

Strengths - internal attributes and resources that support a successful outcome

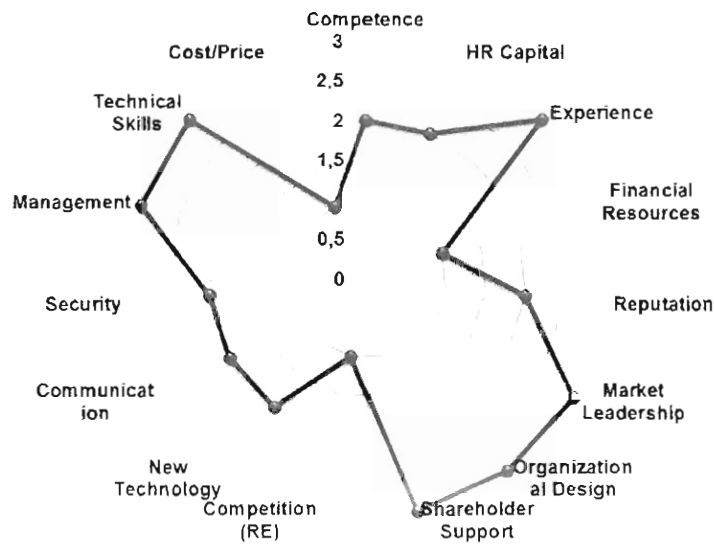


Figure 4 – Strengths

Table 6 - Strengths

COMPONENT	MEASUREMENTS	RATING
HR Capital	Managerial, technical and administrative competence; Staffing adequacy, experience, organizational design and management	15/6 = 2.5
Technology	Technology, security and competition	5/3 = 1.7
Finance	Financial resources and cost or price advantage	2/2 = 1
Marketing/ Communication	Communication channels, positioning, reputation and shareholder support	10/4 = 2.5

7.1.1 HR Capital Interpretation

Resource balancing notwithstanding, we have adequate staff for the size of our company, we are also ahead on the experience curve in comparison to all other Free State (FS) municipalities in as far as electricity distribution industry (EDI) is concerned; We have well-conceived functional areas with relative all round managerial, technical and administrative skills;



HR Capital Challenges: What seem to pull us back is the modern skills that are required for the smart electrical networks of not so far, in future. The long-time stability of the EDI has enabled longevity of employment unparalleled in most other businesses. As a result, CENTLEC finds itself with an aging workforce that has begun to rapidly dissipate. The retiring workers take with them decades of institutional knowledge and expertise. This leaves us with the challenge of reaching, recruiting, training and retaining new employees. Secondly, as described above, entirely new expertise and experience is needed for CENTLEC to deal with the new components and complexities of the modern grid. This means new kinds of employees, with more and more information and communications technology (ICT) capabilities than ever before.

7.1.2 Interpretation of Technology Dimension

Our assessment suggests that CENTLEC can't do without some aspects of horizontal integration when it comes to strategy development. For that to happen CENTLEC must grapple with the subject of "Grid Edge." The most important and impactful developments in the EDI will be at the distribution edges of the grid, and not in the bulk power grid. Many if not most of these developments will be on the customers' sides of the meters.

This means tremendous challenges for CENTLEC, but at the same time it brings with it fantastic opportunities to bring a new and better products and services to our consumers and communities.

This means not only more complexity of planning, operations and management, it means handling big data. Real-time data that must be instantly sensed, analyzed and acted upon. The not so distant



future will compel us to sell products and services that were traditionally not our forte.

Technology Challenges: Whilst we have adopted new technologies namely smart metering, and dynamic vending solutions through third parties. We remain challenged by managing what we don't really know rendering us vulnerable to service providers. Paying particular focus on the modernization and upgrading ICT skills for our workforce must take center stage. We are yet to define and adequately understand new services that will be required by our new generation of technologically competent customers. The new narrative of green economy has lowered entry barriers in our industry, putting pressure on us through renewable energies (RE).

As the grid becomes more digital, with greater automation, cyber security is beginning to pose a great threat to grid reliability and customers' data. When it comes to the latter we are found wanting with our security department *-let alone physical fitness-* not having a clue of the risks in this area. What is more disturbing, we are still unable to bring cable theft and related crimes under control causing insecurity to the digital and physical grid. Detecting and responding as well as anticipating and preventing physical attacks will be increasingly important due to dependability of automated grids on reliable supply. Put differently we need adequate all-round security enclosure;

7.1.3 Interpretation of the Financial Component

Recent technological and economic changes are expected to challenge and transform the EDI. These changes arise due to a convergence of factors, including: falling costs of distributed generation and other distributed energy resources (DER); an



enhanced focus on development of new DER technologies; increasing customer, regulatory, and political interest in demand-side management technologies (DSM); government programs to incentivize selected technologies; the lower price of natural gas; slowing economic growth trends; and rising electricity prices.

Taken together, these factors are potential “game changers” to the South African EDI. As technological innovation e.g., solar photovoltaic (PV) becomes economically viable due to this confluence of forces, the industry and its stakeholders must proactively assess the impacts and alternatives available to respond to these disruptive technologies in a timely manner.

Financial Challenges: The financial risks created by disruptive technologies include declining utility revenues, increasing operational costs, and lower profitability margins, particularly over the long-term. As DER and DSM programs continue to capture our market share, CENTLEC revenues will be reduced. Adding the higher costs to integrate DER, increasing subsidies for DSM and direct metering of DER will result in the potential for a squeeze on profitability and, thus, credit rating.

7.1.4 Interpretation of Marketing and Communication Components

The digitalization of our networks has seen what was classified as soft outputs being transformed to core technical outputs namely marketing and communication. The basis for a digital enterprise is the universal access to high speed, two-way, digital communications, namely broadband Internet. It will be impossible to be a digital enterprise or have a modern, intelligent grid without it.



It will not be possible to ensure integration and interoperability of all devices, applications, data and activities unless they all plug directly into the Internet and have at their center human interactivity of some sort.

The plethora and complexity of the Grid Edge will require the monitoring, analysis and automation of the distribution lines and devices and of the Grid Edge components. It will not be possible to accomplish this through closed proprietary silos of devices, communications systems, data bases, and applications. It requires "3-D" integration and interoperability.

Every device and application and communications channel must interoperate seamlessly with every other one. This transcends vendor specific protocols. Everything must be on the same platform and that platform must be broadband Internet.

Challenges: Besides being an acknowledged market leader within the EDI, we also have effective communication channels, and shareholder support. We did suffer a setback when it comes to reputation. The cause of reputational damage was due to power failures and response times as a result of ageing infrastructure.

7.2 WEAKNESSES

Weaknesses - internal attributes resources that work against a successful outcome.

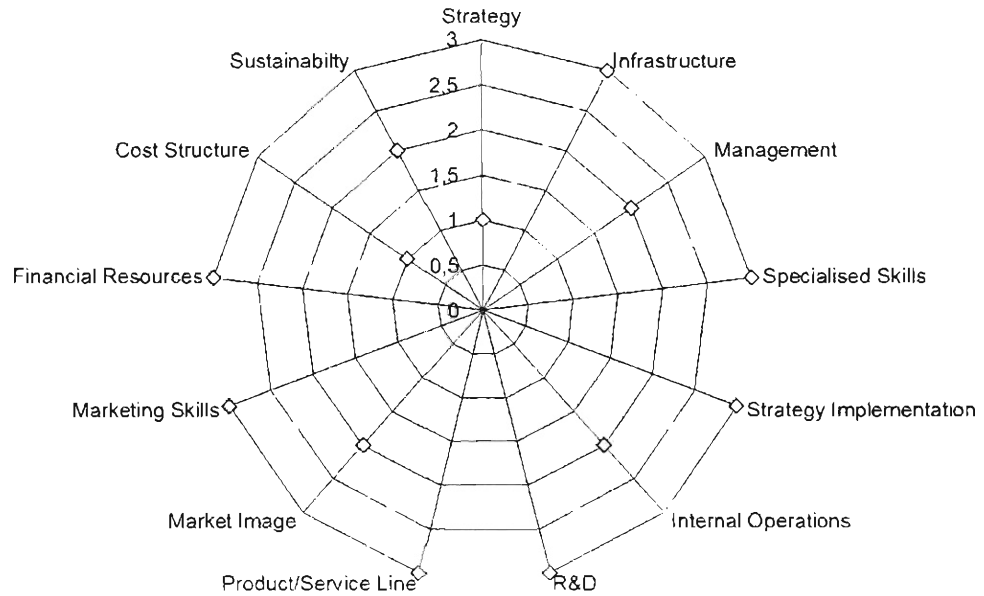


Figure 5 – Weaknesses

Table 7 - Weaknesses

COMPONENT	MEASUREMENTS	RATING
Sustainability	Sustainability, funding of changes and operational costs	6/3 =2
Operations	Infrastructure, depth, skills and operations	10/4=2.5
Strategy	Strategic direction and implementation; marketing and image, and service line.	12/5=2.4
R&D	We are falling behind on research and development	3

7.2.1 Sustainability

The short to medium term that is 1-5 yrs. we appear to be sustainable with a declining outlook if we don't take a digital enterprise direction. The serious backdrop is the fact that we are unable to fund needed strategy changes. The natural response on our side is to continue to drive efficiencies. However, we must be clear in our understanding that customer satisfaction whilst necessary does not translate to loyalty as our customers are driven by cost reduction brought about by subsidized renewables.



7.2.2 Operations

Our current electric distribution system infrastructure will be unable to ensure a reliable, cost-effective, secure, and environmentally sustainable supply of energy for the next decade is nearing the end of its useful life. Depreciation exceeds new investment. New investment is not keeping up with grid deterioration. As a result, the legacy distribution grid, is showing its age and is increasingly operated in a “run to fail” mode.

The cost of new distribution network is increasing and any significant new construction means higher rates to consumers in an increasingly competitive environment.

Our infrastructure is ageing and whilst we have the know-how of yesterday networks we will soon be found wanting on managerial depth and talent when it comes to modern technology unless we modernize and upskill ourselves and the general workforce with a degree of specialization in critical areas such as ICT, network protection, provincial automated control room etc. Due to technological limitations, we appear to be getting plagued with operational problems.

7.2.3 Strategy

We have a poor track record in implementing strategy and whilst our strategy was once great we appear to be lacking clear strategic direction for the modern network and enterprise due to lack of digital plan. On the marketing front we have below average marketing skills and a narrow service line with a weak market image;

7.2.4 Research and Development (R&D)

When it comes to R&D we are non-existent. In whatever small way or through partnership we have to undertake activities in the R&D environment. We can enhance our training center to include a R&D section equipped with a complete testing rooms and laboratory. In doing so we



could complement our vending efforts amongst others by harnessing research skills to specialize in software, microelectronics, telecommunications, power electronics, structural design and other professional fields such as researching on smart grid power grids.

7.3 OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities - external factors the project can capitalize on or use to its advantage.

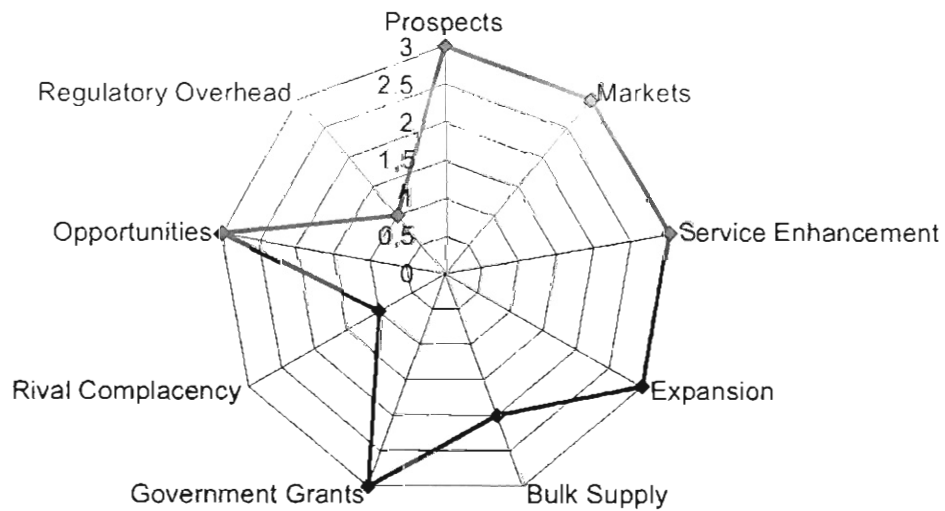


Figure 6 -Opportunities

Table 8 - Opportunities

COMPONENT	MEASUREMENTS	RATING
Opportunities	Prospects, markets, enhancement, expansion, vertical integration and opportunities	18/6=3
Regulation	Regulatory burden	1
Government Support	Grants	3
Competition	Rival complacency	1



7.3.1 Interpretation of Opportunities' Component

We have additional customer groups that we could serve through for an example beyond the meter energy services and data offerings; Through on the other side of meter services that are not regulated we can exploit new market segments; We can enhance our service line to meet customer needs by way of example video telephony using our expanded broadband infrastructure; and Wi-Fi services through our metering infrastructure. We are already embarking on provincial services as per the SOPA directive;

Plans are also underway to play a role in the bulk supply space for purpose of controlling price through vertical integration. The market is growing faster than in the past with more opportunities. Modernization of grids brings with it opportunities with new methods of sensing, analyzing and operating electric distribution systems in the presence of probabilistic rather than deterministic variables. More independent moving parts will require a truly smart distribution grid, not just so called "smart" meters and time of use pricing schemes.

7.3.2 Regulation

Without doubt fewer regulatory requirements will make doing business easier for us. But we can never wish regulatory protection on our part due to a major component of public good in our business. To that extent, we will seek ways to lobby policy makers to ensure recovery of lost revenues in future rate cases. As an industry leader in our own right we will make call for future tariff structures for non-DER customers to pay for lost revenues.

Regulatory Challenges: As DER penetration increases, the proposed cost-recovery structures in the preceding paragraph will lead to political pressure to undo these cross subsidies and may result in EDI utility stranded cost exposure.



7.3.3 Government Support

We continually take advantage of the available government grants for electrification, smart grid initiatives and pilot projects e.g. AMSCOA.

7.3.4 Competition

Competition Challenges: Our unconventional rivals are not becoming complacent and they are not professional.

7.4 THREATS

Threats - external factors that could jeopardize the project

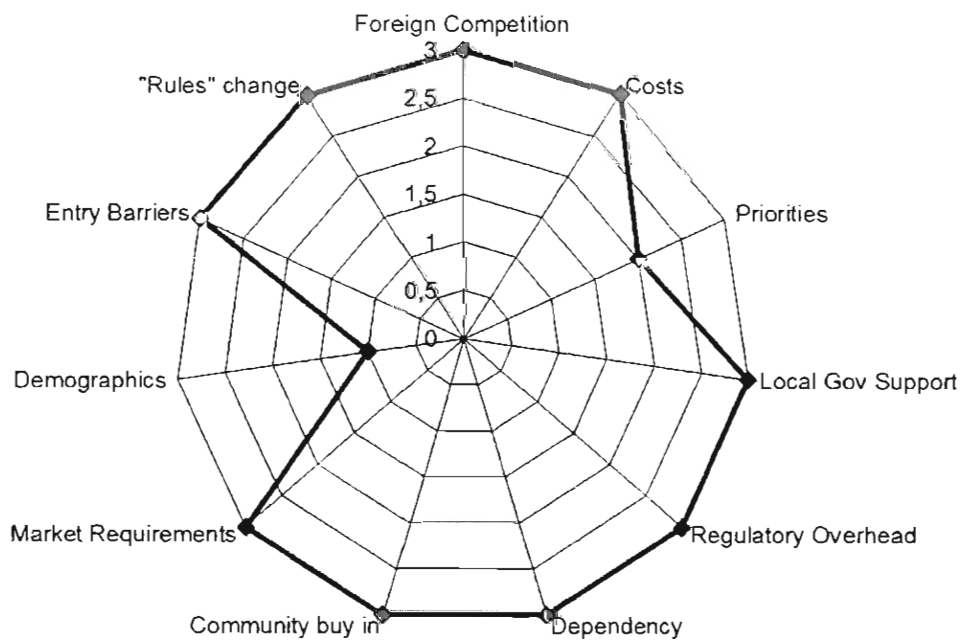


Figure 7 -Threats



Table 9 - Threats

COMPONENT	MEASUREMENTS	RATING
Stakeholders	Shareholder support on new strategic direction, and broader stakeholder buy in.	6/2=3
Demographics	Market requirements and demographics	4/2= 2
Foreign Competition	Low-cost foreign competitors, rising costs and entry barriers	9/3=3
Dependency	Priorities, regulatory costs, changing rules and dependency	11/4= 2.8

7.4.1 Stakeholders

In the absence of a detailed business plan with detailed projections it might be near impossible to secure shareholder support for the new strategic direction. The latter should be followed by massive stakeholder engagement to increase buy in and support. The value proposition should be premised on the benefit to the society at large followed by sustainability aspects.

7.4.2 Demographics

Community needs are changing in directions that point away from our current expertise e.g. *PV technology, internet of things; and 24/7/365* better than human contact web-based service. Whilst physical demography favors us due to being natural provincial entity, human demographics are having a negative impact on our business due to juniorised and millennial cohort. Millennials grow up in an electronics-filled and increasingly online and socially-networked world exposing any business that is technologically backward as undesirable.

7.4.3 Low-cost foreign competitors

Foreign players of renewable energies need not be local as they are sought through internet by middle class and commercial consumers who



continuously look for affordable, reliable and alternative energy solutions. These make entry for foreign competitors through products to lower costs due to demand, whilst entities such as CENTLEC continue to experience rising cost due to high maintenance costs as a result of ageing infrastructure. The narrative of green is good continue to create low barriers to entry forcing us to review our strategy such that we begin to play a role on the bulk supply i.e. vertical integration.

7.4.4 Priorities

Government priorities on renewables are not needs driven per se as much as they are politics of popularity; CENTLEC by developing R&D capacity in the areas of renewables could lead to affordable renewable technologies that are home brewed rather than internationally produced finished products. Regulatory requirements are becoming onerous on the one hand whilst they assist on the other acting as barriers for new entry; By design CENTLEC is vulnerable to government due to founding articles and funding models and as such government could change the "rules" with little or no warning.

7.5 ESTABLISHED PERSPECTIVE(S)

7.5.1 Internal environment i.e. Total Strengths and Total Weakness

We appear to have more strengths with weaknesses closely rallying behind us. That means we can take advantage of our current strengths in order to minimize our current weakness. Our current strengths are derived from our managerial, technical and administrative expertise, though we need skills upgrade and/or build-up in the ICT in order to be competent when it comes to systems and network automation.

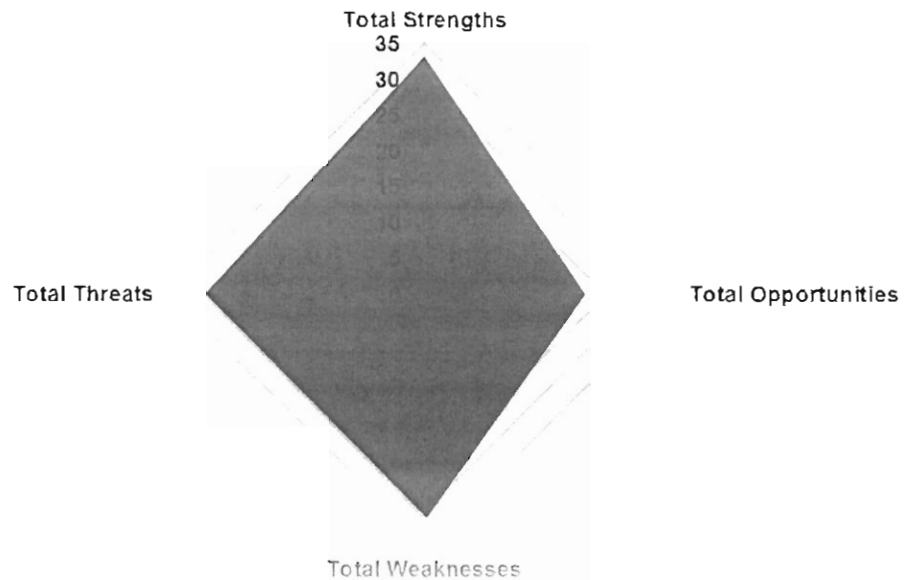


Figure 8 –Established perspectives

Whilst our current weaknesses appears to be slightly less than our current strengths it must be understood that, they are more complex e.g. development of specialized skills with a digital component wherein higher education institution have not started to review current curriculum. Secondly, competing priorities such as ageing infrastructure with limited budgets. Central to this is the need for a robust and dynamic strategy with R&D as enabler for effective response.

7.5.2 External environment i.e. Total Opportunities and Total Threats

Our future opportunities appear to be rallying behind our future threats. Our immediate strategic direction must move towards immediate conversion of CENTLEC to a provincial entity (i.e. expansion), enhancement of our services this means we must employ a combination of vertical and horizontal integration as our strategic thrust.

On the other hand, our future threats are premised on 'uncontrollable' legislative and executive orders in the regulation and policy environments. Learning from the old adage: *'perception is reality'* the narrative of green-



good will continue leading to lowered entry barriers in EDI space. The latter will ultimately lead to foreign dominance of local EDI due to technological and cost advantage they possess.

7.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Customers are finding other alternatives on their side of the meter, notably distributed generation: conventional backup generators, rooftop solar arrays, combined heat and power facilities, even microgrids. Even the ways that customers utilize and manage their electric energy is changing drastically with the advent of electric vehicles, battery storage, smart homes / buildings, etc. The key thing to recognize is that while a customer may be totally satisfied with the price, performance, and provenance of a product or service, that doesn't mean that they won't readily swap to an alternative if it offers a value proposition that they find attractive. In other words, customer satisfaction does not mean customer loyalty.

Major problems, threats, weaknesses, and/or opportunities require particularly high priority attention by CENTLEC's leadership and management. The starting point being strategy development/review followed by prioritization of activities for implementation purpose. Being at the cross-roads knowing which direction to take we employed a scientific tool called Strategic Position and Action Evaluation (SPACE) matrix. The tool is used to determine what type of a strategy a company should undertake as depicted below.

The outcome of our assessment suggests that we have major competitive advantages in a high-growth industry. Being an acknowledged provincial market leader-*though not sustainable at this stage*- gives us an advantage because we are able to 'localize' services through adaptation and responsiveness. In order to have sustainable competitive advantage we must one, employ **Focus Differentiation Strategy** meaning we must understand and service our target market better than anyone else.

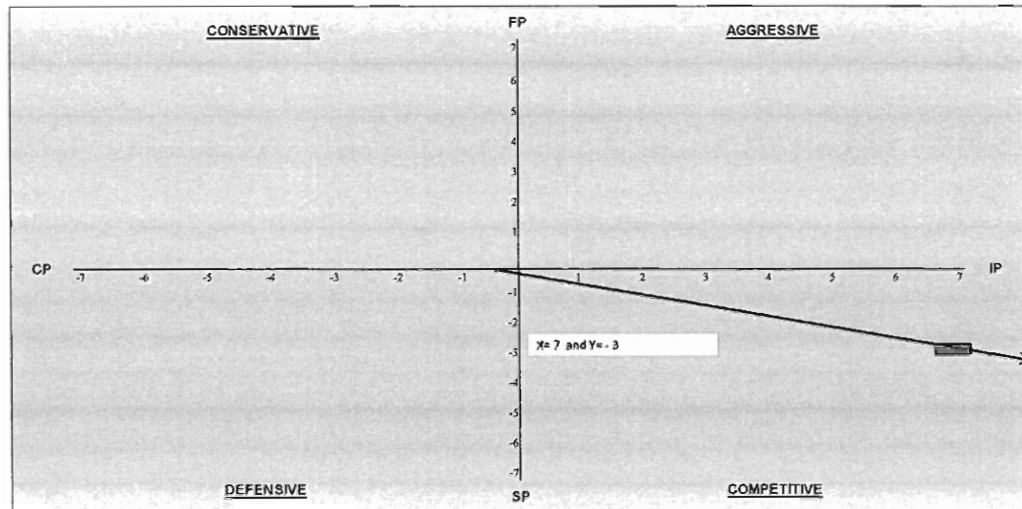


Figure 9 - Strategic Position and Action Evaluation

Two, we have to form strategic alliances in both our vertical (backward) and horizontal (forward) integration endeavors.

This will help us in sourcing capabilities that we don't possess. In South Africa, there is no single utility that have all the capabilities needed to compete effectively in our world of fast-paced change hence we can't do without alliances. Our alliances it must be stated need not be those that are parasitic but once that will over time transfer skills and know how. This must be at the center of any partnership we enter into.

Further diagnostic tests suggest that CENTLEC needs a growth strategy that combines vertical and horizontal integration and the two are briefly explained below:

- I. **Vertical Integration:** This type of strategy is good for CENTLEC because we have a strong competitive position in a growing, attractive industry namely energy space. In doing so we will grow by playing a role in the energy generation through renewables e.g. PV parks. This strategy has advantages, e.g., in cost, stability and quality of supply, and making operations more difficult for our unconventional competitors.



- II. **Horizontal Integration:** We also aim to grow by taking over functions forward in the value chain previously provided by final manufacturers e.g. vending in the case of meter manufactures and distribution network operations in the case of automated network equipment. This strategy will provide us with more control over services and distribution network operations, but it involves new critical success factors that we currently don't master e.g. software development, data handling, telecommunications and programming skills.

To be able to follow this new trajectory we have to prioritize our strategic activities as follows:

- a. **Expansion:** By extending our services to the rest of FS municipalities amounts to expanding sideways at the point in the value chain that we are currently engaged in. One of the primary advantages of this approach is that it enables us to start with low hanging fruits such as in-house vending, electrification, tariff design from a fairly continuous range of choices, meaning we move from modest extensions of present services to major expansions like 24/7/365 online control-room, and structural-legal form of provincial entity.

- b. **Digital CENTLEC:** It may eventually be possible for a distribution utility to do everything that it needs to do on the public internet provided that it is ubiquitously available throughout. If it's not, it should be the starting point for CENTLEC's technology plan to enable a successful business strategy. Put differently, the internet is impossible without electricity, however soon a modern, intelligent grid will be impossible without the Internet. That means CENTLEC if it still wants to be around 10 to 20 years from now, CENTLEC must transform itself to a digital enterprise.

The latter should not be misinterpreted to mean a website, but rather transformation into a virtual enterprise. This means being able to do any of our business activities online better than in person. It means being on social media in a big way, being bigger in the cyberspace than in the physical world from an after sales, marketing and communication point of view. The EDI's new competitors will



come into existence as digital enterprises, not constrained by the need to overcome an incumbent, non-digital business structure and culture. There is no way our bricks and mortar culture will be able to compete successfully with a digital one.

For CENTLEC becoming digital is non-negotiable, because a modern, intelligent grid will be a digital grid. Information technology (IT) and operations technology (OT) are expanding and merging. The modern distribution grid is a convergence of the electric grid with the Internet of Things. To stay competitive, CENTLEC **MUST** transform into a fully digital enterprise. Only digital enterprises will be able to operate 24/7/365 with the optionality, customization and responsiveness that customers are already accustomed through the internet of things.

c. Research and Development: However small, whether through third parties and/or jointly CENTLEC must begin to harness research skills and activities. Be it in the soft or technical environments we can no longer afford absence or passivity in the R&D space.

On the technical side, we must mainly engage in the intelligent power distribution system research, development, design, production and rollout.

For technological innovation, especially in the ICT space, CENTLEC has to have excellent R&D team with comprehensive software and hardware development capability. This will help the entity not to be held ransom by services providers especially in the vending, automated electrical network operations; electrical and ICT network protection and finance environments.

8. FUTURE STRATEGY

The electricity distribution industry is undergoing tremendous transitional change. This requires new strategies in order to be able to cope with the changing environment and challenges in the industry. The challenges identified include but are not limited to embedded generation, alternative sources of energy such as gas, unpredictable



economic trends that are affecting the country, illegal connections and tampering with the electricity infrastructure as well as the rapid change in technology.

In order to address the challenges listed above, management has adopted a strategic and visionary approach with a consideration and review of the following:

- Enabling environment,
- Customer centricity,
- Efficiency of operations,
- Opportunities
- Collaborative leadership

8.1 Enabling Environment

An analysis of the environment in which Centlec (SOC) Ltd operates shows that:

Politically, there are several areas that will need to be managed in order to get buy-in from all stakeholders.

The **Economic** outlook is grim as the economy continues to slow down, putting further downward pressure on the bottom-line. Hence the need (i) to be aggressive in driving efficiencies, especially in the collection and the mechanisation therefore e.g. vending, smart collection solutions, with ICT 'segregation' and interface; (ii) automation with the intent to lower overheads and (iii) venturing into new services and/or products.

On a **Social** front, CENTLEC continues to be involved in the electrification of schools, clinics and households in and around the FS Province. Indigent customers continue to receive 50kWh per month of free basic electricity.

On **Technology**, the organisation continuously looks for new technologies--- namely *smart metering, smart street lighting, gas reticulation etc.* --- to implement in the hope of improving efficiencies.



The current operating and governance structure of CENTLEC needs to be safe guarded and entrenched namely separate bank accounts between CENTLEC and the parent municipality, and independent board of directors and executive management for accountability and good governance. Such a structure will make it possible for CENTLEC to operate as a free standing, provincial entity providing electricity and related services to the entire FS community.

8.1.1 Tariff Harmonization

The possibility of harmonizing energy tariffs in the Free State region to lower the cost of bulk purchases.

8.2 Customer Centricity

The main backbone of the entity is its customer base. As a result the entity needs to provide a service to the customer that creates a positive experience. This can be achieved by creating awareness, analyzing purchasing patterns and increasing customer care services. Customers' satisfaction should remain at the core of the entity's business focus.

The customer of the future will exercise more rights and have more choices to goods and services.

In the process of realizing radical economic transformation, the entity will ensure that the local community plays a crucial roles in the sale of prepaid electricity as well as getting them involved in the small scale embedded electricity generation. This will assist in creating a sense of ownership of the entity and the contribution it makes.

Other considerations in the pipe-line include taking advantage of the technology to enhance service delivery by ensuring that customers find it easy to access the entity's services.

8.3 Efficiency of operations

It is critical for operations to be streamlined and be more efficient. Streamlining can be done through benchmarking with other utilities including water utilities and



entities in other countries. On top of this the business model needs to be changed in order to create a surplus. Other Metros should follow the example of Centlec to support small municipalities and increase their viability and sustainability through shared knowledge and capacity. Focus should be given to asset management and ensure that existing assets' live-span is increased to lower capital expenditure on refurbishment. In executing all the latter the principle of cost containment should at all times be on the radar screen.

8.4 Opportunities

8.4.1 Solar (Solar Farms, Embedded Generation)

Given the current trends in the Electricity energy industry, the entity can longer solely rely on the revenue from electricity alone. As an alternative the entity should consider playing a critical role in the Solar energy industry with a focus on generating as well as supplying solar power to the public, Other opportunities available include the utilization of the entity's electricity infrastructure to play the role of connecting and distributing solar energy generated by the independent power producer at a fee.

The entity's current licence not only provides for distribution of electricity but energy in broad. This creates an opportunity for the entity to start playing a crucial role in the distribution and sale of Gas energy as a wholesaler as well establishing a depot for Gas in the Free State Province In order to realize the above the entity in collaboration with other role players is considering reviewing the existing policies and by laws. In this regard the entity has already started on a feasibility study to assess the viability and requirements for the successful implementation of alternative revenue sources

8.4.2 Stored Energy

The possibility of using batteries technology as an alternative supply.



8.4.3 Fibre Communication Route

Given the current developments in the communication industry, the entity is strategically positioned to use its existing fibre cable networks to either lease it out as a means of communication and transfer of data.

8.4.4 Vending Capacity increase and routes

The entity is currently operating the vending system that provides an opportunities for the expansion and increasing capacity of the system through the creation of its own vending platform from which customers can buy prepaid electricity directly from the entity. This will contribute significantly to cost reduction as the commission paid to private vendors will be an option that can be avoided.

Other options available from the entity's vending system is that it opens opportunities to be able to provide auxiliary services such as vending for water. This could be a source of alternative revenue for the entity.

As the entity has Service delivery agreements with other municipalities, it can make a contribution to these municipalities' debts collection process by using the vending system to collect outstanding debts at a reasonable fee

8.4.5 Electrification Construction

As learnt from the past experience, the entity is in a better position to review the costing of projects and tariffs charged to new and existing customers. In this regard cost reflective tariffs have been developed to ensure that the entity is able to recover the costs of providing the services to the public.

8.4.6 Training Centre Equipment and Staff

With the existing facilities at the training Centre the entity is in a position to become a centre of excellence in the provision of training to current and



future electricians in the province as well as nationally. The provision of these services will contribute significantly to the alternative revenue. Consideration will be made to enter into memorandums of understanding with the municipalities within the province for the provision of training. Plans are already underway to register the institution with Skill Education Training Authority and have the training centre recognised as a trade test testing centre.

8.4.7 Direct Metering (Complexes)

Given the ever changing environment in the electricity industry, the entity has revised its policy on the metering of complexes with an aim of eliminating body corporates who act as a go between the entity's line of supply and the ultimate customer. In this regard the policy of number of meters per erf has already been reviewed to allow individual customers to have their own meters directly from the entity. An office dealing with direct metering has already been established and is due to be capacitated.

8.4.8 Data (Information) Mining

Data mining is the process of sorting through large data sets to identify patterns and establish relationships to solve problems through data analysis. Data mining tools allow enterprises to predict future trends to shape the business model of the organisation and better customer service whilst at the same time increase profits.

8.4.9 Revenue (Advertising)

The entity has the potential to generate revenue from advertising through using the existing old power station towers. A light emitive diode (LED) screen has been procured and has been mounted on the old power station building with an intention of providing advertising facilities to businesses and the community.



8.5 Collaborative leadership

The impact of leadership cannot be over-emphasized. Leadership should be broadened to ensure collaboration between the key players in the local government environment which include CoGTA, the departments of Energy, Public Enterprises, Finance and National Treasury to ensure interventions are dove-tailed and seamless to achieve the required outcomes. It is also essential for Eskom and municipalities to engage and collaborate to enhance revenue management. In executing this mandate it remains critical to keep SMME's on the radar screen and execute radical economic transformation at all levels of Supply Chain.

8.6 Financial Considerations

The current financial plan for CENTLEC is to generate funding through energy in order to expand into new products viz. gas, solar and related ICT services. This over time can be achieved through efficiency initiatives, cutting on losses and effective revenue management.

The Major Sources of Funding are as follows:

1. Consumers namely; residents; government and commercial customers
2. Government grants for infrastructure
3. Our new focus areas are to expand on solar energy, gas and related ICT services

CENTLEC's key to success involves satisfying its customers, producing a quality product, and delivering excellent service.

Table 10 - Past Performance

<i>Past Performance</i>			
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Sales	2 070 809 190	2 102 062 992	2 235 503 431
Gross Margin	895 857 358	688 311 430	757 263 195
Gross Margin %	43%	33%	34%
Operating Expenses	1 920 146 684	2 099 349 874	2 339 946 743



Past Performance			
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
<u>Balance Sheet</u>			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash	450 792 807	361 530 141	207 869 198
Accounts Receivable	280 505 166	522 451 230	569 434 546
Other Current Assets	130 340 920	153 567 890	131 862 272
Total Current Assets	861 638 893	1 037 549 262	909 166 016
<u>Long-term Assets</u>			
Long-term Assets	3 172 247 288	3 493 590 159	3 803 972 385
Accumulated Depreciation	640 573 545	509 342 739	383 446 284
Total Long-term Assets	3 812 820 833	4 002 932 898	4 187 418 669
Total Assets	4 674 459 726	5 040 482 160	5 096 584 685
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Accounts Payable	337 325 664	412 330 933	498 999 891
Other Current Liabilities (interest free)	70 796 810	127 743 335	115 353 089
Total Current Liabilities	408 122 474	540 074 268	614 352 980
<u>Long-term Liabilities</u>			
Long-term Liabilities	2 048 204 830	2 211 009 450	2 256 245 415
Total Liabilities	2 456 327 303	2 751 083 718	2 870 598 395
Paid-in Capital	100	100	100
Retained Earnings	1 066 897 111	1 155 957 809	1 114 509 788
Reserves	1 151 235 212	1 133 440 534	1 111 476 402
Total Capital	2 218 132 423	2 289 398 443	2 225 986 290



Past Performance			
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Total Capital and Liabilities	4 674 459 726	5 040 482 161	5 096 584 685

8.7 Sales Forecast

The chart and table below shows CENTLEC's projected Sales Forecast. Annual projections for three years are shown here, with first year monthly figures in the appendix.

Table 11 - Sales Forecast

Sales Forecast					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Sales	2 371 570 849	2 513 865 100	2 664 696 206	2 811 254 497	2 965 873 495
Total Sales	2 371 570 849	2 513 865 100	2 664 696 206	2 811 254 497	2 965 873 495
Direct Cost of Sales	1 469 051 259	1 549 849 078	1 635 090 778	1 725 020 771	1 819 896 913

8.8 Break-even Analysis

For the break-even analysis, the monthly revenue needed to break-even is R194,459,450. The break-even analysis has been calculated on the "burn rate" of CENTLEC.

Table 12 - Break-even Analysis

Break-even Analysis	
Monthly Revenue Break-even	R 194 459 450
Assumptions:	
Average Percent Variable Cost	21%



Estimated Monthly Fixed Cost	R 154 124 600
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8.9 Projected Profit and Loss

CENTLEC's Pro Forma Profit and Loss statement was constructed from a conservative point-of-view, and is based in large part on past performance.

Table 13 - Profit and Loss

Pro Forma Profit and Loss					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Sales	2 432 290 700	2 585 615 881	2 740 858 183	2 891 605 383	3 050 643 679
Direct Cost of Sales	1 503 644 354	1 586 344 794	1 673 593 758	1 765 641 415	1 862 751 692
Other Costs of Sales					
Total Cost of Sales	1 503 644 354	1 586 344 794	1 673 593 758	1 765 641 415	1 862 751 692
Gross Margin	928 646 346	999 271 087	1 067 264 425	1 125 963 968	1 187 891 986
Gross Margin %	38%	39%	39%	39%	39%
Expenses					
Payroll	324 022 373	345 154 271	370 366 078	390 736 212	412 226 704
Contracted Services	189 544 709	199 969 668	210 967 999	222 571 239	234 812 657
Depreciation	99 383 339	120 345 352	140 366 703	148 086 872	156 231 650
Transfers and subsidies	120 000 000	120 000 000	120 000 000	120 000 000	120 000 000
Other	101 928 427	107 534 489	113 448 887	119 688 576	126 271 447
Total Operating Expenses	834 878	893 003	955 149	1 001 082	1 049 542 458
	848	780	667	899	
Profit Before Interest and Taxes	93 767 498	106 267 307	112 114 758	124 881 069	138 349 528
EBITDA					



Pro Forma Profit and Loss					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Interest Expense	51 339	54 163	57 142	60 285	63 600
Taxes Incurred	-	-	-	-	-
Net Profit	93 716 159	106 213 144	112 057 616	124 820 785	138 285 928
Net Profit/Sales	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%

8.10 Projected Cash Flow

The following table displays CENTLEC's cash flow and the chart illustrates monthly cash flow in the first year. Monthly cash flow projections should also be included in the appendix.

Table 14 - Cash Flow

Pro Forma Cash Flow					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Cash Received	2 340 266 491	2 488 100 754	2 637 524 530	2 782 588 379	2 935 630 739
Cash from Operations					
Cash Sales	2 319 186 063	2 465 585 637	2 613 384 317	2 757 120 454	2 908 762 079
Interest	20 755 561	22 172 381	23 778 627	25 086 451	26 466 206
Subtotal Cash from Operations	2 339 941 623	2 487 758 018	2 637 162 943	2 782 206 905	2 935 228 285
Additional Cash Received					
Sales of Long-term Assets	324 868	342 736	361 586	381 473	402 454
Subtotal Cash Received	324 868	342 736	361 586	381 473	402 454
Expenditures	-2 258 518 992	-2 478 777 824	-2 627 688 838	-2 765 611 725	-2 911 120 369
Expenditures from Operations					



Pro Forma Cash Flow					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Cash Spending	-1 926 301 796	-2 113 049 187	-2 231 367 626	-2 354 092 846	-2 483 567 952
Finance charges	-51 339	-54 163	-57 142	-60 285	-63 600
Subtotal Spent on Operations	-1 926 353 135	-2 113 103 350	-2 231 424 768	-2 354 153 130	-2 483 631 553
Additional Cash Spent					
Other Liabilities					
Principal Repayment	-119 911 045	-126 506 152	-133 463 991	-140 804 510	-148 548 758
Purchase Long-term Assets	-92 254 813	-119 168 321	-142 800 080	-150 654 084	-158 940 059
Dividends	-120 000 000	-120 000 000	-120 000 000	-120 000 000	-120 000 000
Subtotal Cash Spent	-332 165 857	-365 674 473	-396 264 070	-411 458 594	-427 488 817
Net Cash Flow	81 747 499	9 322 930	9 835 691	16 976 654	24 510 370
Cash Balance	167 270 817	176 593 747	186 429 438	203 406 092	227 916 462

8.11 Projected Balance Sheet

Table 15 - Balance Sheet Chart: Cash

Pro Forma Balance Sheet					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Assets					
Current Assets					
Cash	167 270 817	176 593 747	186 429 438	196 683 057	207 500 625
Accounts Receivable	124 058 380	130 881 591	138 734 486	146 364 883	154 414 952
Other Current Assets	153 147 403	161 570 510	170 456 888	179 832 017	189 722 778



<i>Pro Forma Balance Sheet</i>					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Total Current Assets	444 476 600	469 045 848	495 620 813	522 879 957	551 638 355
Long-term Assets					
Long-term Receivables	231 645 091	231 369 621	231 094 150	243 804 329	257 213 567
Property, plant, equipment and Intangibles	3 908 728 547	3 886 388 908	3 848 877 297	4 060 565 548	4 283 896 653
Total Long-term Assets	4 140 373 639	4 117 758 529	4 079 971 447	4 304 369 877	4 541 110 220
Total Assets	4 584 850 239	4 586 804 377	4 575 592 260	4 827 249 834	5 092 748 575
Liabilities and Capital					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	550 145 384	580 403 380	612 325 566	646 003 472	681 533 663
Current Borrowing					
Other Current Liabilities	119 911 045	126 506 152	133 463 991	140 804 510	148 548 758
Subtotal Current Liabilities	670 056 429	706 909 532	745 789 556	786 807 982	830 082 421
Long-term Liabilities					
Total Liabilities	2 297 189 024	2 321 119 899	2 314 623 096	2 441 927 367	2 576 233 372
Paid-in Capital	100	100	100	100	100
Retained Earnings	552 293 548	515 427 840	493 796 633	520 955 448	549 607 997
Earnings	1 065 311 138	1 043 347 006	1 021 382 874	1 077 558 932	1 136 824 673
Total Capital	1 617 604 786	1 558 774 946	1 515 179 607	1 598 514 480	1 686 432 771



<i>Pro Forma Balance Sheet</i>					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Total Liabilities and Capital	4 584 850 239	4 586 804 377	4 575 592 260	4 827 249 828	5 092 748 563
Net Worth	1 617 604 786	1 558 774 946	1 515 179 607	1 598 514 480	1 686 432 771

8.12 Business Ratios

Table 16 - RatiosChart: Cash

<i>Ratio Analysis</i>				
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	
Sales Growth				
<u>Percent of Total Assets</u>				
Accounts Receivable	6%	10%	11%	
Other Current Assets	3%	3%	3%	
Total Current Assets	18%	21%	18%	
Long-term Assets	82%	79%	82%	
Total Assets	100%	100%	100%	
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Current Liabilities	9%	11%	12%	
Long-term Liabilities	44%	44%	44%	
Total Liabilities	53%	55%	56%	
Net Worth	47%	45%	44%	
<u>Percent of Sales</u>				
Sales	100%	100%	100%	
Gross Margin	43%	33%	34%	
Profit Before Interest and Taxes	7%	0%	-5%	
<u>Main Ratios</u>				
Current	2.11	1.92	1.48	



<i>Ratio Analysis</i>			
	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Quick	2.11	1.92	1.48
Total Debt to Total Assets	1.10	0.67	0.34
Pre-tax Return on Net Worth	0.07	0.00	-0.05
Pre-tax Return on Assets	0.07	0.00	-0.05
<u>Additional Ratios</u>			
Net Profit Margin	7%	0%	-5%
<u>Debt Ratios</u>			
Debt to Net Worth	1.08	1.15	1.24
Current Liability to Liability	0.17	0.20	0.21
<u>Liquidity Ratios</u>			
Net Working Capital	2.11	1.92	1.48
<u>Additional Ratios</u>			
Assets to Sales	2.26	2.40	2.28
Current Debt/Total Assets	0.06	0.10	0.11
Acid Test	1.10	0.67	0.34
Sales/Net Worth	0.93	0.92	1.00

9. IN CONCLUSION CENTLEC VISION 2027

Managers should create a learning appetite for employees as an essential requirement for a robust lifelong learning strategy. In a way, this approach will assist with redeployment of employees from areas of the organisation that are uncompetitive and moving to those which are stable or growing. Focus on staff development will assist CENTLEC by linking its long term business strategy to ensure that 'skill flight' does not lead to insufficient skills mix in years to come.



The table below provides a ten year step by step view of the journey that CENTLEC intends to take in redefining its business. The immediate focus will be on CENTLEC's vision for 2027.

Table 17 - Vision

Year	DISTRIBUTION		GENERATION
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Establish a Project Management & Implementation Team ☛ Presentation to Provincial Executive and Municipal Stakeholders ☛ CENTLEC to assume electricity distribution in all FS Municipalities in terms of SLA's with Local Municipalities ☛ Provincial Legislation to establish Schedule 3 Part D Provincial Entity (in terms of the PFMA) – Obtain National Treasury Approval ☛ FS shared system /infrastructure strategy ☛ CENTLEC re-constituted as a Provincial distributor in terms of enabling legislation ☛ Funding Strategy Approved & 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Preparation of Provincial Electricity Management Risk Strategy (Business Continuity Strategy) ☛ Change & stakeholder management strategy ☛ AMI System Implemented ☛ Smart Metering System ☛ Provincial ICT, Network Design & Acquisition ☛ Acquire contract management system ☛ Use the Asset management system ☛ Phase 1 – In house training for Vending Staff ☛ Upgrade SCADA system ☛ Optimise financial system ☛ Integrate all systems ☛ Design & Establish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ FS sustainability energy strategy (Renewable energy strategy) ☛ Develop Carbon credit revenue strategy



Year	DISTRIBUTION		GENERATION
	Implemented	CENTLEC FS Call centre	
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Smart Technology Metering Implementation – Phase 2 Implemented ☛ Phase 2 – Smart Street lighting ☛ Phase 2- In-house Vending Staff operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Provincial ICT, Network Implementation – Phase 1 ☛ Priority area 1 - networks upgraded 	☛ Carbon credit revenue strategy
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Smart Technology Metering Implementation – Phase 3 Implemented ☛ Phase 3 - Smart Street lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Provincial Communications Network Implementation – Phase 2 ☛ Priority area 2 - networks upgraded 	
2021	Smart Technology Metering implementation – Phase 4 Implemented		☛ 25% Renewable energy in FS
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ LV network Automation Strategy Approved – Phase 1 Implemented ☛ Priority area 3 – networks upgraded 	☛ Phase 4- In-house Vending Staff fully competent and operating independent of the service provider	
2023	☛ Phase 1- Security Monitoring Mechanism (CCTV cameras) installation.		☛ 50% Renewable energy in FS



Year	DISTRIBUTION	GENERATION
2024	Phase 2- Security Monitoring Mechanism (CCTV cameras) installation.	
2025	Phase 3- Security Monitoring Mechanism Control Room Operational.	60% Renewable energy in FS
2026		
2027		80% Renewable energy in FS



10. NORMATIVE REFERENCES

As stated above, for the Vision, Mission, and Value statements the reader is encouraged to look into the existing and approved CENTLEC strategic documents. It is not the author's intention to recycle the reported narrative. For ease of reference the documents referred herein are the following:

- ↻ CENTLEC Business Plan: 2015-2017
- ↻ CENTLEC Annual Report: 2016/2017
- ↻ 2018 SALGA Energy Summit