

New boiler for Department of Chemical Engineering

The Department of Chemical Engineering recently received a new boiler, which was installed in the laboratories in the Engineering II building. This is thanks to a generous donation by Alstom John Thompson, local manufacturer of boilers and other equipment.

This initiative is proof of the importance of cooperation and support between the private sector and higher education institutions in ensuring quality education.

“It became increasingly difficult to keep the two existing boiler units, dating from 1965 and 1984 respectively, in a working condition. The need for a replacement was looming, as was the price tag for a new unit,” explains Mr Gerrie Claassen, control instructor in the department.

Through the intervention of Mr Max Cruz, Alstom John Thompson’s marketing director in Johannesburg,

the equipment was delivered to the University at a cost of less than R100 000.

“The new boiler is fitted with a microprocessor and has the capability to deliver steam to the 10-plate glass distillation column at short notice. The column forms the basis of several postgraduate projects, as well as several undergraduate laboratory experiments. We will thus save a lot of time. We will also save a lot of space in the laboratory because the new boiler is much smaller than its two predecessors,” explains Mr Claassen. ➔



➔ Presenting the new boiler to the University (from left): Mr Max Cruz, Marketing Manager: Alstom, Mr Pierre Wentzel, Construction Manager: Alstom, Prof Philip de Vaal, Head of Department: Chemical Engineering, and Gerrie Claassen, manager of the Chemical Engineering Laboratory.