



TESTING NEW TECH

At Jendamark, we are Tech People. Our Odin team has proved this during lockdown, working remotely to develop and deploy a range of apps and technologies covering everything from manufacturing to health and education.

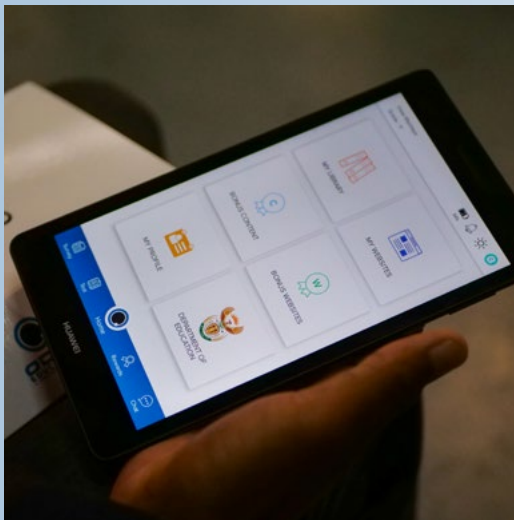
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You will already be familiar with Odin Health, our in-house app that we use daily to monitor each team member's health during the Covid-19

pandemic. We have now launched it as a product for sale in South Africa and India, and have had great buy-in from customers in the automotive, retail, FMCG, security and educational sectors. Looking ahead, Odin Health's functionalities like quizzes and the communications portal will be developed even further and become a valuable tool for businesses to offer free online training and development, and give their employees added value in their working life.

www.odin-health.com



We are also working hard to help thousands of children get a better education and salvage the academic year.

Our OMANG device is a one-stop remote or e-learning solution for schools. Each child receives a tablet pre-loaded with their specific subject textbooks, learning apps, educational websites and 2GB of data per month. Their teachers can upload notes, old exam papers, video lessons, set tests and use the chat function to communicate with their classes. OMANG is already in use in schools across the Free State, and in Nelson Mandela Bay and Graaff-Reinet. It has even been featured in The Herald, Cape Argus and as "Product of the Day" on Gadget magazine's website!

www.odineducation.co.za



LineWatch: Part of our existing production technologies, LineWatch gives a real-time view of a production line's performance. The live dashboard shows metrics such as productivity, uptime and quality. One of our customers in India, Mahindra Electric (MEML), requested a custom-built version that will allow them to configure the targets, rules

and settings for each of their coming LineWatch implementations. Our team has also been developing their tool management and maintenance system.

WorkStation: Our PC-based operator guidance system shows operators how to build a component step by step. Currently, it needs a connection to a PLC, which sets and controls the sequence of operations on the line. PLCs are expensive and require complex programming. We have been working on a new version of WorkStation that doesn't need a PLC, making it more affordable for smaller manufacturers, who will enjoy benefits such as part traceability and ensuring that processes like correct tightening sequences are followed.

Raven Sensor: We also built our own sensor, which collects information such as vibration, humidity and temperature, for customers to learn more about the state of their machines. The data is submitted to the cloud and analysed to help managers with machine uptime and productivity metrics for better planning. Alerts can also be created to help maintenance technicians reduce costly downtime. This forms part of the Odin IoT platform we are developing.

Watch this space for more tech from our Odin team!

LOCKDOWN HIGHS AND LOWS

Life under lockdown has been tough on everyone but some of our colleagues found creative and crazy ways to keep their spirits up.



◀ "I used lockdown to further my knowledge of cooking and baking. We set up themed evenings – movie theatre, Come Dine with Me, and even wii on the projector for the family, to keep us all sane. The lockdown rule I hate the most as a smoker is the tobacco ban. The silver lining I found from this experience is how, in SA, we will find a way to network..."

Amber Boyley
Software Developer/Database Manager

▶ "All those temporary workarounds for the three-week lockdown needed serious rethinking for us to have a smooth-running design office. Spirits were kept high by means of a few soul-searching discussions with the neighbour's cat and typical SA humour about traffic jams. It all turned out well considering the massive challenges we had to overcome to keep working remotely indefinitely. Things have settled down as we become accustomed to the 'new normal' and, although the challenges still remain, I think we've adapted brilliantly as a company to survive. Keep on pushing forward JMK family!"

Alwyn Smit | Senior Mechanical Designer



Be advised there is a 4 chair pileup in the hallway this morning, considering alternative routes to work...

"I spent the time with precious family, homing in our fur children, became an expert at making pineapple beer and jammed some golf once the courses opened!"

Leila Lokotsch
HR Consultant



▲ "Life as we knew it changed immediately without warning or time to prepare. At first it was nice thinking, 'Wow we have a break to rest and spend time with our loved ones,' but after about three weeks it started getting more serious. After each address from the President, reality kicked in that the 'holiday' was over and major decisions needed to be made. I used lockdown as family time. With two small kids and a husband, we got to do more things together that we don't always get to do. We played card games, board games, taught the kids how to ride a bike, braaied, baked and cooked together, tried out new recipes, and watched movies."

Celeste Isaacs | Creditors Assistant



◀ “My mom and I decided to spend lockdown in Gamtoos with my aunt and uncle. We arrived, set up our workspace, and were ready. As the days progressed, we realised that working from home brought some challenges but we managed with a ‘boer maak ‘n plan’ attitude. When the lockdown was extended, it became apparent that it would be much easier working from our own home and not crowding the kitchen counter at my relatives. So we packed up and started driving, extremely nervous, not knowing if there were going to be roadblocks. But we didn’t see a single one! Having adapted quite well to the ‘new normal’, the only rule that drives me insane is the fact that I cannot see my work family and friends. I never realised what an integral part the interaction played in my life. I am slowly but surely losing one marble at a time being stuck at home.”

Natasha Thompson
PA to Director: Sales & Design

▶ “The lockdown meant that even those we employ to keep our garden from turning into the Kalahari had to stay at home. Without a weed eater or lawnmower in sight, the situation became dire, as family members and small dogs were getting lost or disappearing entirely in our newly flourishing bushveld. So I invented the new Makita-on-a-Stick, a home-built weed eater for all your agricultural solutions – easily packs away into a small orbital sander for hobbyists. Extension cable length determines how much of a good idea this actually is...”

Timothy Smith
Key Account Manager



FUTURE OF TECH

For Mandela Month, JendamarK had the pleasure of donating 114 of our Omang e-learning devices to Nqweba Secondary School in Graaff-Reinet. The Grade 11s were overjoyed to be connected to their new digital classroom!



LOCKDOWN ABROAD

As our senior systems analyst, Greg Perelson travels to customers around the globe. But when Covid-19 shut down the world, he was stranded in the USA. Although he and other team members could travel to different states in America, they could not fly home.



“What probably stood out the most during the second half of the trip was the airports. I’ve travelled quite a bit, and I’m used to the hustle and bustle that you normally find in most airports,” says Greg.

“But on my way out of Detroit, the airport was almost deserted, and it got progressively emptier along the way. On the way out of Indianapolis, we walked around the airport and I don’t think there were more than 20 people in the whole building.”

Bored in the USA

Greg was in Columbus, Indiana, when the South African lockdown was announced.

“Simultaneously, Indiana went into lockdown and the plant where we were working closed. So the decision was made to head home. We were in Chicago when it was announced that no flights could land in SA during the initial lockdown, so we had to stay.”

Greg then travelled down to Georgia to see if he could assist a customer in Gainesville, where he spent six weeks until a repatriation flight could be arranged.

“The plant shut down for three weeks, so I tried as best I could to work remotely from the hotel. Once the plant re-opened, I was able to go in and assist with some outstanding items. It felt a bit strange being near other people again, since I had been almost entirely isolated except for trips to buy groceries.

“On our way back to SA, we stayed overnight in Washington. It was the first place we’d come across where wearing masks was mandatory to enter shops and other public buildings.”

Back in SA

After landing on home soil, Greg says quarantine was an unpleasant experience for the team, who were put into a run-down Transnet facility.

“Fortunately, we were able to get a private company to come and administer Covid-19 tests,” he says. After everyone received negative results, the team was given the necessary inter-provincial travel documents and allowed to go home to complete the 14-day self-isolation period.

“We drove down to PE in pairs – no more than two people were allowed per car.”

Jendamark thanks all our team members who stayed on to assist our global customers and keep our business going in these challenging times.



New Life IN LOCKDOWN

For our technical expert, Malcolm Swart, becoming a first-time father in the middle of a pandemic was even more challenging than he expected!



“At Melissa’s last doctor’s visit, she was told that she had to get tested for Covid-19 and it was strongly recommended that I be tested too. We took the test on Friday, June 19, and received our negative results 24 hours later.

Melissa was admitted to hospital on the following Monday morning. She was in labour for 20 hours and I was allowed to be present throughout and for two hours after the birth. I was able to support her and witness Emily being born. I was not permitted to come and go during this time, and had to sleep in a chair. We also had to wear face masks all the time – even during the final stages of labour.

Emily was born at 7.03am on Tuesday, June 23. I left them at 9am, and they spent the night in hospital, with no visitors allowed. It was an overwhelming experience

for Melissa, managing her postpartum recovery alone and being a first-time mom with little help.

The nurses were short-staffed and there were a lot of mummies who needed attention. Usually, the nurses will show new mothers how to bath the baby but they are not allowed to do so. Fortunately, we had learnt this in an antenatal class and gave Emily a warm bath at home.

In normal circumstances, agents from the Department of Home Affairs would be at the hospital to register new-born babies. However, due to Covid-19, one or both parents must now visit the Department to do the registration. It is beneficial for the father to go as they will issue an unabridged birth certificate in both parents’ names, which does not happen if the mother goes alone. I had to queue in the sun for six hours to get Emily registered but, once inside, it was a quick process and I left with her birth certificate in hand.

Overall, it was over before we knew it; and we have been fortunate to be home safe with Emily while under lockdown.”

Welcome, Emily!