

Benefits that ABB, as vendor company, derives from being a SACAC member.

ABB have globally some 5 R&D laboratories in different countries where traditionally we do research and development on our automation and control hardware and software platforms and products forming part of our core business. These research teams also work closely with and in collaboration with several academic institutions to stay leaders in power- and automation products, platforms and services.

Local ABB offices feed client requests and local market demand and other relevant information to the central R&D centers, for development by the specialists after which the solutions & new products are rolled out to all local ABB entities in the various countries.

Recently, however, the transformation of ABB into a more software (knowledge-based) company made it much more important to decentralize portions of our R&D and move closer to our clients locally. Some R&D projects are now done in the local countries by partnering with clients and drawing in local academic collaboration, especially if the R&D required could be done by customization and configuration on already existing hardware and software platforms.

Consequently in the last few years it became a priority for local ABB specialists and engineers in the local countries (like South Africa) to keep close contact with the local frontrunners (academics and other local R&D people) in the applications and local configuration of automation and control solutions that may be applicable to our local clients's processes. Our local engineers should also follow international trends and practices, made visible on international conferences and papers typically organized by bodies like IFAC.

In summary, benefits for ABB of being a member of SACAC can be listed as follows:

- Keeping closer contact with academics locally that could provide channels to knowledgeable people who could be approached for collaboration projects.
- Direct access for our people to international trends and developments in automation and control with IFAC conferences and symposia.
- Networking opportunities with others (high-tech clients and other vendors) to ensure our configuration solutions to our clients remain state-of-the-art in the extremely fast-developing control environments.
- Open access to technical & academic forums national and international for presenting papers for continual stimulus of our own internal ABB technical specialists and consultants forming part of our defined "Technical Career Path" within our local ABB organization.
- Marketing opportunities ensuring ABB continues to be recognized as a high-technology control and electrical solutions partner who can provide global state-of-the-art implementations of control solutions also locally.

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