

Evolution of a Name

1897

Vacuum Oil, backed by J.D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, opens a branch in Cape Town to service the Southern Africa markets.

1911

Standard-Vacuum introduces the first range of specialised products developed especially for the motor car, under the labels Vacuum Mobil Oil and Gargoyle Mobil Oil as well as Pegasus motor spirit.

1954

The improved petrol, Mobilgas, is introduced to the South African market as a replacement for Pegasus.

1955

Socony-Vacuum changes its name to Socony Mobil, linking its corporate brand to the company's famous products in the Mobil range.

1960

Joint ownership of the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company International is terminated and the company's assets are divided between Socony Mobil Oil and Standard Oil New Jersey. International interests held by Socony Mobil are transferred to the Mobil Petroleum Company Inc and those held by Standard Oil are transferred to Esso Standard Eastern. In South Africa, the Vacuum Oil Company retains its name but with most of the operations, including the Refinery, now under Mobil Petroleum Company Inc.



1866

The Vacuum Oil Company of New York is established, the product of pride being an excellent harness oil.

1881

Johann Gottlieb Schade introduces Vacuum Oil products to South Africa.

1931

Merger of the international companies Standard Oil Company of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company and the New York head company becomes the Socony-Vacuum Corporation.

1954

The new Durban Refinery is named Stanvac, after the two owners Socony and Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

1959

The owners of Standard-Vacuum decide to dissolve the merger formed in 1931.

1962

The Stanvac Refinery is renamed the Mobil Refinery.

1963

A new emblem in red, white and blue and incorporating both Mobil and the flying horse Pegasus, emerges as the company is renamed. The Standard-Vacuum Oil Company becomes Mobil Oil Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd.

1979

The Shah of Iran, main supplier to apartheid South Africa, is overthrown and this avenue of supply is cut off. In South Africa, oil becomes a secretive and sensitive topic.

1982

The holding company in America finds it increasingly difficult to ignore the pressures of the anti-apartheid movement worldwide and starts taking steps towards disinvestment.

1989

A US Mobil executive visits South African operations to reassure staff.

1989

One month later, Mobil sells its South African interests to Gencor with the condition that the name has to change within five years from date of sale.

1992

The Durban Mobil Refinery is renamed the Engen Refinery, or Enref.

1993

In line with the conditions of sale, the name Mobil gives way to Engen in one of the most successful re-branding exercises ever undertaken in South Africa. The new image represents its South African ownership, an aggressive international focus and strong ties within Africa.

1998

Petronas buys the remaining 70% share for \$510 million and becomes the sole owner of Engen Limited.

2000

In line with Engen's BEE goals, Petronas sells a 20% stake in Engen to Worldwide African Investment Holdings (WAIH), which owns Afric Energy Resources (AER).



Mobil



1986

The US Government passes the Anti-Apartheid Act, with Mobil and Caltex identified as the largest US investors in South Africa. The message is clear to international oil companies - it's time to get out.

1987

The Budget Reconciliation Act is passed in the US, effectively making it unprofitable for US companies to operate in South Africa.

1990

Gencor lists its new company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange via Trek Holdings Ltd, a listed company since 1968.

1993

Gencor unbundles and Engen becomes a 100% publicly owned company. With the lifting of sanctions and the shedding of pariah status, the search is on for a multi-national partner that will ensure continued growth and competitiveness.

1996

Malaysian company Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Petronas) buys a 30% stake in Engen for \$436 million. Engen now has the backing of a large international company.

2004

Petronas and Sasol agree to combine Engen and Sasol Liquid Fuels Business in a joint venture, Uhambo. If approved by the competition authorities, Petronas and Sasol will each have a 37,5% share and BEE partners (Worldwide and Tshwarisano) will have 12,5% each. Uhambo will be the leading liquid fuels refining, marketing and distribution business in sub-Saharan Africa and will represent the most significant BEE investment in the liquid fuels industry.