

February 2016

Innovation breakthrough to make online education resources available offline

In a path-breaking move, Paper Video and the Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA) have partnered with the MMI Foundation, the corporate social investment arm of MMI Holdings (MMI), to bring online educational resources to students and teachers across South Africa, who do not have (or cannot afford) access to the internet.

The MMI Foundation, through two of MMI's client-facing brands – Metropolitan and Momentum, has joined forces with ASSA and Paper Video, to give over 3,000 pupils in five schools across four provinces the opportunity of extra lessons and exam preparation in Grades 10, 11 and 12. The subjects covered are Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Accounting.

This partnership opens the possibility for every school in the country to gain access to the best educational support material, expertly taught, even if they do not have internet connectivity or cannot afford the cost of data.

Paper Video, a Cape Town based social enterprise, has partnered with the Actuarial Society of South Africa since 2014, in order to make expert exam preparation resources available to learners across South Africa through the Actuarial Society Education Trust, a registered Public Benefit Organisation.

“Education remains a vital instrument for establishing an inclusive society and opening up opportunities for the youth to realise their full potential. This is why the MMI Foundation is committed to supporting innovative education initiatives around the country,” said Dan Moyane, Chairman of the Foundation.

Paper Video creates books of past exam papers in which every question is linked digitally to a solution video, with an experienced teacher going through the solution for that particular question, step by step.

The videos cover past exam papers over the past five years, in the four subjects across three grades. This amounts to over 8,000 videos which contain over 500 hours of teaching.

“The most meaningful thing we can do for the youth of this country is to provide them with sufficient grounding in key subjects that will help them achieve the Matric results they need to pursue meaningful careers”, said Mike McDougall, Chief Executive Officer of ASSA.

“The big challenge of digital resources is that they are typically available online, or on a pay television channel, and most learners do not have access to the internet or cannot afford it,” said Chris Mills, product architect of Paper Video.

“That is why we have introduced our new innovations, which do not assume internet access.”

The innovations include:

- Micro SD cards. This is like a small flash-drive for a phone or tablet, which enables learners to watch thousands of videos without paying a cent for data.
- Using a USB adapter to enable the videos on the micro SD card to be viewed on a computer.
- A “WiFi box” which contains all Paper Video content and emits its own WiFi signal to allow anyone in its radius with a smart phone, tablet or computer to watch the videos without internet.

The five schools chosen are: the University of Johannesburg Metropolitan Academy (UJMA) in Johannesburg, Gauteng; Mbilwi Secondary in Thohoyandou, Limpopo; Khutsulani Secondary and Zikodze Secondary in Kabokweni, Mpumalanga; and Hoërskool Groblershoop in Upington, Northern Cape. MMI and Paper Video will be launching the use of the resources on the following dates:

1. Hoërskool Groblershoop, Tuesday 23rd February
2. UJMA, Wednesday 24th February
3. Mbilwi Secondary, Thursday 25th February
4. Zikodze Secondary, Wednesday 2nd March
5. Khutsulani, Friday 4th March

Paul Maree, co-founder of Paper Video and its mathematics teacher, said all the schools would be visited to give them an introduction to the best use of the resource and ensure open channels of communication and continued support throughout the year.

“Our aim is to substantially increase the reach of expert additional teaching to as many learners as possible, through innovation and technology that is sensitive to real-life circumstances of students and teachers across South Africa,” Mr Maree said.

To set up interviews with ASSA please contact:

Lucienne Fild
Independent Communications Consultant
C +27 82 567 1533
lucienne@fild.co

To set up interviews with Paper Video please contact:

Sarita de Lange
Paper Video Project Manager
T +27 21 426 2222 | C +27 84 450 4502
sarita@papervideo.co.za

To set up interviews with the MMI Foundation, please contact:

Lee Moteetee
Ogilvy PR
lee.moteetee@ogilvypr.co.za
T +27 11 700 5408 | C +27 72 490 4609

Charlene Lackay
MMI Group CSI Manager
Charlene.lackay@mmiholdings.co.za
T +27 12 673 7609 | C +27 79 752 2325

About MMI Foundation (www.mmifoundation.org.za)

The MMI Foundation is an independent Section 21 Company that integrates the corporate social investment initiatives of the MMI client facing brands Guardrisk, Momentum, Metropolitan, and Multiply. The Foundation was set up to distribute CSI funds to non-profit organisations and institutions working towards the development and empowerment of the broader community. The Foundation is independently run and operated focusing on achieving meaningful interventions in the areas of health, education, disability and sport development in South Africa.

About Paper Video (www.papervideo.co.za)

Paper Video was founded in 2014 by Chris Mills and Paul Maree as a response to the declining state of Maths and Science education in South Africa. Having both taught Maths in Khayelitsha, Chris and Paul created Paper Video driven by the belief that access to quality educators remains the biggest obstacle to the youth of South Africa receiving a meaningful education. Through the use of innovation and technology that takes into account the realities of the socio-economic status of many South Africans, Paper Video aims to do nothing less than enable every student and teacher in the country to gain easy and instant access to quality learning and training resources, irrespective of their background or access to technology and the internet.