

# unlisted

## Absa Business Achiever Award (Unlisted Companies)

# winner

IVOR ICHIKOWITZ | paramount group



Ivor Ichikowitz is an industrialist and philanthropist. Over the last 20 years Ivor has built successful businesses across oil and gas, defence and aerospace manufacturing, property, retail, tourism, mining, agriculture and sustainable development across Africa.

Ivor is the Executive Chairman of the Paramount Group, which he founded in 1994. Under his leadership the business has grown into Africa's largest privately-owned defence and aerospace business.

As Executive Chairman of private equity group TransAfrica Capital (Pty) Limited, Ivor directs investments in scientific research and development projects, producing innovative solutions for industry and commerce.

On the philanthropic front, Ivor founded the Ichikowitz Family Foundation which supports educational and developmental programmes that empower Africa's young people to seize the new century's opportunities.

Growing up in South Africa, Ivor experienced first-hand the challenges facing a country in transition. It is this background that drives his passion for democracy and his desire to help developing nations reach the stability needed to grow and prosper.

Ivor is a life-long proponent of Africa and its people and his interests stretch from local community initiatives to international trade and development. He believes that the continent has the potential to become an important global economic power. Over the last two decades he has been an active investor, employer and entrepreneur building numerous successful businesses across the continent.

In 2011 Ivor Ichikowitz' Umoja Foundation subsidised the publication for posterity of the magnificent "Jewish Memories of Mandela" coffee-table book and a revealing and inspiring account of the history of the South African Jewish community. "The book is a crucial addition to the world's records of anti-apartheid activism from within the white community, of which Jews formed a part," said Ivor at its launch.

Jewish Memories of Mandela offers a unique take on the story of Nelson Mandela and the anti-apartheid struggle, as seen through the lives and recollections of Jewish South Africans who were a part of it. The book was a collaborative effort between the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the Ichikowitz' Umoja Foundation.

Many of the colour and black-and-white photographs included throughout the book are being published for the first time.

Since the early 90s, Ivor has supported initiatives that promote transformation and nation building in South Africa. He was active in the anti-apartheid struggle and is a strong supporter of the ANC.

Ivor Ichikowitz carries forward a long family tradition of innovation, entrepreneurship and commitment to Africa. It is against this background that he founded the Ichikowitz Family Foundation

which is the main vehicle of his family's charitable work. The Foundation initiates and supports educational and developmental programmes that empower Africa's young people to seize the new century's opportunities.

Ivor Ichikowitz was born in 1966 in the mining town of Springs in South Africa where he experienced first-hand the many challenges of the country's transition.

Ichikowitz's father, Louis, began importing Suzuki motorcycles, setting the foundation on which Ivor would later build his own company – Paramount Group.

Ichikowitz studied drama at Wits - where he became involved with protest theatre before traveling in Africa and studying African literature.

He is a keen photographer and wildlife enthusiast. He is married with two children.

His Paramount Group, for which he won the business award, is a world leader in defence and security innovation with an exceptional reputation for developing and delivering integrated solutions for defence, internal security and peacekeeping forces across the world.

The largest privately-owned defence and aerospace business in Africa, it has unique capabilities in land systems, aerospace, naval systems, advanced technologies and electronic systems.

The Paramount Group has established itself as a global innovator with the development of one of the world's most advanced families of armoured combat vehicles, and a revolutionary reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft, the first aerial platform of its kind.

It also has one of the strongest aerospace offerings in Africa comprising supersonic fighter aircraft solutions, air force establishment, systems integration, avionics, UAVs, sighting and mission sensors. Integrating advanced systems that extend the mission performance and lifespan of fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and unmanned airborne vehicles is a key competence.

No lightweight, Paramount Group also manufactures, maintains and refurbishes naval vessels including light strike craft, rapid intervention and off shore patrol vessels at its own facilities.

In July 2014, Boeing and Paramount Group met to Collaborate on Defence and Security Opportunities. The agreement, signed during the Farnborough Air Show, will allow Boeing and Paramount to apply their complementary strengths in providing aircraft and land systems solutions for customers in Africa and other major markets that face a range of security challenges. Paramount Group is Africa's only partner of Boeing at this level in Africa and a trusted partner of sovereign governments around the world.