

s m e r g o s TM

i n s p i r i n g m o t i o n

Smergos is a start-up company co-owned by Nick Smit and Nicole Vergos. We are two passionate individuals dedicated to creating a range of wheelchair bags and other accessories that provide much-needed functionality through a choice of simple, personalised designs.

As business partners, both of us have first-hand experience living with disability. Consequently, we have a sound understanding of the physical, social and psychological challenges that people with disabilities face. With this in mind we aim to champion their rights and create opportunities that break down the barriers between those with and those without disabilities.

Smergos is the first proudly South African company to specialise in manufacturing accessories specifically designed for people in wheelchairs. We offer a range of accessories that fit neatly onto any wheelchair, giving the customer a better quality of life.

We launched Smergos to the public in October 2015 and in the years that have followed we have accomplished great things, namely, in 2017 we were accepted into the YGap International Incubator Programme as well as being placed joint 2nd place in the SAB Foundation Social Innovation and Disability Empowerment Awards. In 2019, we placed 4th of 66 participants at the Prosperity Games, hosted by the UK Department of International Trade, and were awarded *the company with the biggest potential for impact* prize.

Smergos has gained exposure through various radio and television interviews as well as by exhibiting at key events such as the DTI (Department of Trade & Industry) Annual Disability Rights Conference, GSEN (Global Social Entrepreneurship Network) Summit, SA Innovation Summit and the ABSA SME Disability Day.

We recognise that many South Africans living with a disability cannot afford to purchase our products themselves and as a result we have partnered with 2 corporate companies to date and donated 120 bags to school children and adult beneficiaries. In addition to this, we introduced Smergos Life in 2019 – this sub-division offers products that everyone can use and for every item purchased from Smergos Life, we'll donate a bag to a person in need that is wheelchair bound.

We are both highly motivated people and want to continue to grow Smergos. With this in mind, we plan to expand our existing wheelchair product range to include not only bags but many other exciting accessories and branch out into disability related services.

Ultimately, we plan to take Smergos global within the next one to three years. We aim to expand our offerings to fulfil the needs of people living with other disabilities and the elderly. We have created part-time employment for 14 persons, 2 of which have disabilities. As the company grows, our ultimate vision is to create more employment opportunities, specifically for people with disabilities. To make this a reality we will bring all manufacturing in-house and launch



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stores that offer a wide array of products, both ours and other providers, as well as focus on accessibility of public environments.

Be inspired and join the movement:

- YouTube: [Smergos](#)
- Facebook: [Smergos](#)
- Instagram: [Smergos1](#)
- LinkedIn: [Smergos](#)
- Website: www.smergos.com

