

MEDIA RELEASE FROM GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES

28 September 2017

Growthpoint launches South Africa's first dual-certified property portfolio - the Thrive Portfolio

Growthpoint Properties today launched the first and only property portfolio in South Africa to be highly rated by both the South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) and the Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA), aptly named the Thrive Portfolio.

This premier portfolio combines quality and aesthetics with sustainability for the benefits of their clients and prioritises the health and well-being of the people in the buildings.

Growthpoint's new Thrive Portfolio comprises 71 dual-rated office buildings in excellent locations nationwide spanning more than 850,000sqm of office space, and valued at R16.1bn. It is almost half of Growthpoint's total office portfolio.

Platinum Thrive Portfolio buildings boast a SAPOA Premium- or A-grade rating, as well as 4-Star or higher GBCSA rating or an Energy and Water Performance (EWP) certification. Gold Thrive Portfolio buildings are SAPOA B-grade rated or higher, and have a GBCSA EWP certification or have received at least a 3-Star Existing Building Performance (EBP) certification.

The Thrive Portfolio incorporates smart technology that gives its occupiers the benefit of electricity and water savings, and transparently share the numbers to prove reduced energy costs. The measurable benefits can easily be seen on the multifunctional Growthpoint App. It includes details about all Thrive Portfolio buildings, and near real-time information on electricity and water savings.

Thrive Portfolio buildings are in central locations and most of its buildings provide standby electricity and water. They maximise productivity through the quality and efficiency of Growthpoint's award-winning designs that create spaces where businesses can thrive. These supportive environments are designed to attract and retain the best talent, foster innovation and increase staff productivity to drive businesses forward.

Rudolf Pienaar, Growthpoint Properties Office Division Director, says: *"Sustainability has become paramount and office spaces are being recognised as the ideal locations for implementing sustainable solutions, largely due to the amount of time spent in these buildings. Many clients who occupy our buildings are environmentally conscious, and constantly looking for the next innovation to help lessen their carbon footprints, while prioritising the health and well-being of their people. Our new Thrive Portfolio is an excellent answer for the needs of leading, innovative businesses."*

Dorah Modise, CEO of Green Building Council of South Africa, says: *"GBCSA is proud to be a part of this pioneering and innovative new offering. This exclusive new portfolio of Platinum and Gold rated Thrive buildings includes many of South Africa's certified green buildings and we believe that this venture will bring a wealth of benefits to the industry."*



Neil Gopal, CEO of the South African Property Owners Association, says: *“SAPOA is excited to be a part of this groundbreaking new partnership and we believe that by consolidating all of our unique skills, we will be bringing something completely unique and exclusive to the property industry.”*

A business is as strong as the people who power it. If the space in which people are expected to perform supports the growth of their performance, everyone wins.

The innovative new office portfolio is backed by research from a study conducted by Harvard in 2015, which investigated the impact of green buildings on cognitive function. It revealed that CO₂ levels are directly linked to occupant cognitive performance. Cognitive scores are 61% higher in green buildings (below 1,000ppm CO₂). Added benefits include reduced energy costs, with green buildings paying R2/sqm to R10/sqm less a month. In addition, water costs are also reduced.

Growthpoint applies workspace design, green building development and well-building standards to create space to thrive. The multifaceted interaction of the related sciences and arts ensures that each Thrive Portfolio building maximises productivity, promotes and celebrates innovation, and makes its buildings places where people want to spend time. It also helps to safeguard its clients' human capital investments.

The green building movement originally set out to facilitate the development of carbon-zero buildings and bring about substantial savings in electricity and water. However, this represents a rather small percentage of a company's expenses.

“We realised that the Thrive Portfolio has the potential to do so much more,” says Pienaar. *“It is an opportunity for our clients to attract and retain the best talent, for the talent to achieve its full potential, innovation, creativity and problem solving, resulting in an increase in productivity. That is why we created the Thrive Portfolio.”*

Growthpoint is a leading international property company, and the largest South African primary listed REIT on the JSE. It creates value for all its stakeholders through innovative and sustainable property solutions that provide space to thrive. Growthpoint is a Platinum Founding member of the Green Building Council South Africa, a constituent of the FTSE4Good Emerging Index and has been included in the FTSE/JSE Responsible Investment Index for eight years running. It owns and co-owns the biggest portfolio of certified green buildings in South Africa.

/ends

Released by:
Growthpoint Properties Limited
Rudolf Pienaar, Office Division Director
Tel: 011 944 6282
RPienaar@growthpoint.co.za

For more information, or to book an interview, please contact Mahlatse Chirwa on 011 783 0700 or on 083 453 6668 or email Mahlatse@marketingconcepts.co.za.