

Maritza Sander  
Associate Director  
Benchmark International



## Woman of Impact: Maritza Sander 'Employee of the Year in Africa' at Benchmark International.

***As we commemorate Women's Day, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the women who have made a significant impact on our business at Benchmark International. We acknowledge the indispensable role that these women play as inspiring leaders within the organisation, driving change and fostering innovation.***

For this reason, we're thrilled to spotlight Maritza Sander as our focus of admiration this Women's Month. She's an indispensable figure in our global sell-side advisory firm, and her work – largely behind the scenes – has had an enormous impact on the trajectory of our company, and the clients she diligently serves.

*"I was incredibly honoured and humbled to receive this prestigious award. Being named Employee of the Year for Africa is not just a personal achievement, but a reflection of the collaborative and empowering work culture that thrives within our company.*

*It is through the collective efforts of every team member that we have been able to achieve remarkable results and exceed expectations."*

Maritza's rich experience in the mid-market M&A space spans nearly 13 years, of which the past six have been with Benchmark International. Throughout her significant tenure, Maritza has demonstrated extraordinary service to our clients, and is a cohesive element within our Stellenbosch Transaction Office.

She underpins our operations, and her process optimisation skills are the heartbeat that drives our accomplishments.

*"I firmly believe that success is a result of a shared vision, effective teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.*

*This award is not just a recognition of my individual contributions, but a celebration of the incredible synergy and camaraderie within our organisation."*

Hailing from Gauteng, Maritza entered the job market in 1994 and quickly proved herself a sponge for knowledge. She has directed her skills to relationship management, project management, quality assurance and strategic thinking, contributing significantly to Benchmark International's growth strategy.

Her role is a delicate and demanding balancing act, requiring high emotional intelligence, analytical thinking, and systematic problem-solving. Maritza is key in implementing change management and aligning processes to support our Deal Preparation and Deal Execution teams throughout the M&A process.

The depth of Maritza's understanding of major acquirers across South Africa, Africa and beyond is truly impressive. She consistently reads between the lines, eases objections or concerns that may arise, and binds our teams with a tenacity that's difficult to quantify but impossible to overlook.

Described by her colleagues as the engine that drives us forward, Maritza embodies resilience, leadership, meticulousness, loyalty, and unwavering dedication, managing a whirlwind of responsibilities with steady calmness.

The same dedication extends beyond her professional life into personal pursuits, notably in long-distance running. Like her approach to her work, Maritza tackles marathons with relentless determination, showcasing a commitment and persistence that mirrors her professional ethos.

Her participation in the formidable Comrades Marathon, renowned as one of the most gruelling running races worldwide, serves as a testament to her resolve. In conquering the challenging 90km distance, Maritza showcased not only her physical stamina but also her philanthropic spirit, running in aid of 12 charities. This dedication and altruism parallels her approach to work: an absolute commitment to her pursuits, be that orchestrating successful M&A deals or crossing the finish line for a worthy cause.

Alongside her demanding professional commitments and sporting achievements, Maritza prioritises her family. Mother to three, she is active and present in her children's lives, engaging in the needs and adventures of their various life stages.

This Women's Month, as we acknowledge and thank Maritza, we hope to inspire other ladies to identify their own potential, embrace their unique capabilities, and apply these skills in leading others. Maritza's exemplary qualities, tireless efforts, and resilient spirit are truly admired by our firm, and are vital for our growth and success. 