

Helm announces staff ownership

Issued by [Helm](#)

27 Sep 2023

Helm has announced its Employee Ownership Plan, rewarding key staff with a significant stake in the business. This marks a momentous shift in their ownership structure as Helm evolves into a staff-owned company.



The senior management team – affectionately known as HelmCo – now holds a major stake, allowing them to actively participate in decision-making processes while driving the strategy, vision, and long-term growth of the company.

Along with Helm CEO, Dawood Patel, other major shareholders include Awande Capital founder and former Trudon CEO, Thabo Seopa, and company founder, Gustav Praekelt, after whom the company was named prior to its rebrand to Helm.

One of the reasons for the rebrand was to mark the new ownership structure, which also saw Praekelt's role shift to a non-executive capacity. Although he is no longer involved in the business on an operational level, the Ownership Plan brings to life his long-standing vision of a staff-owned company.

Praekelt says, "We've always wanted to be a different type of business – one that is owned by the very people who contribute to its strategy and success every single day. Our employees have been a part of our past and present, and will remain a more significant part of our future."

One of the standout aspects of the Employee Ownership Plan is the recognition and reward it bestows upon those who have contributed to Helm strategically, and those who have served the business loyally for a long period. The majority of the people in the programme have been with the company for over five years, with some beginning their journeys as far back as 2010.

The plan not only strengthens the bond between employees and the company, but also encourages shared responsibility for Helm's success.

Dawood Patel, CEO of Helm, says that by giving key team members a direct stake in the business, Helm fosters a culture of ownership and accountability. "This shared sense of ownership will lead to enhanced collaboration, increased innovation, and improved productivity across all levels of the company. By empowering employees with equity, we encourage long-term

thinking that ultimately drives growth and stability.”

By having staff participate in ownership of the company, Helm has engaged its employees in a truly meaningful way, while also contributing to the country’s transformational goals through diverse shareholding. The new ownership structure ensures that Helm’s workforce is not merely a group of employees, but an integral part of its vision, its journey, and its future.

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