

Manufacturing Indaba 2018 is Bigger, Better and more Innovative than Ever Before

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Johannesburg, 2 May 2018 - The **Manufacturing Indaba** continues to sustain its position as Sub-Saharan Africa's most renowned manufacturing event. Since its inception in 2014, the conference has progressed steadily, providing participants with unparalleled prospects to foster significant business relationships, build their network within the industry, empower manufacturers to enter new markets and discover opportunities and challenges to promote innovation in manufacturing operations. These factors have presented employment creation opportunities and accelerated economic growth in the region of Sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the learning and feedback from previous conferences, this year's event has been designed to offer even greater value and market insights to attendees than previous forums.

The 5th annual **Manufacturing Indaba** will be hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, Africa's economic hub, on the 19th and 20th of June 2018. The event will be held in collaboration with the Department of Trade & Industry (the dti) and the Manufacturing Circle, a corporate association of private sector manufacturers. This year's event will explore Industry 4.0, otherwise known as the "4th Industrial Revolution". Industry 4.0 together with IoT (Internet of Things), both are fundamental in promoting digital transformation in South Africa's manufacturing industry.

Recognising the critical importance of supporting small manufacturing units to acquire long-term economic advantages, this year's conference will witness the 3rd edition of the Small Business Indaba which aims to target prospective investors and mentor potential manufacturing business owners on verified strategies for driving their enterprises forward. The featured panel discussions of this event will cover topics pertinent to small industrial businesses, such as gaining access to new markets, approaching large corporations through supplier development programmes, exploring financing opportunities and discovering how technological innovation can boost small scale enterprises.

Furthermore, to ensure that this year's event offers all delegates and exhibitors the opportunity to engage with high-profile guests and speakers, the Manufacturing Indaba 2018 is proud to once again host its Business Matchmaking Programme. This model is spearheaded by its intelligent matchmaking software that will utilise attendees' profile and background information to connect them with relevant contacts that are significant to their goal attainment, send meeting requests and conveniently pre-schedule meetings at a central venue within the conference.

This year's symposium promises to raise the bar by hosting an official Hosted Buyers programme with buyers representing Procurement Managers, Municipal Managers and Company Buyers from the large corporates in attendance. Manufacturers from across the SADC and East Africa region are expected at the event with the vision of promoting Intra-Africa trade to support Africa's growth trend of 5.5% as predicted by the International Monetary Fund.

The event will bring together industry leaders, business owners, government officials, professional experts and investors to unpack challenges and devise solutions to stay abreast of global manufacturing competitors in this ever-changing industrial landscape. Given the

heightened pertinence of this year's agenda, the 5th annual Manufacturing Indaba will provide instrumental insights to anyone vested in South Africa's manufacturing arena, thereby fortifying all sectors of South Africa's economy.