

Manufacturing Indaba momentum spreads to the Western Cape
September 2015

Cape Town - Following the success of the recent national Manufacturing Indaba at Emperors Palace, Ekurhuleni, and the success of the KwaZulu-Natal road show of the Manufacturing Indaba, the momentum has reached the Western Cape, where manufacturers can look forward to hearing from the dti Minister, Dr Rob Davies, the Western Cape Premier, Helen Zille and the City of Cape Town Mayor, Patricia de Lille.

Taking place on Friday the 6th November 2015 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, the Western Cape Manufacturing Indaba will bring together the province's manufacturers to workshop and network with government's policy makers and the province's leadership to unlock the growth opportunities of the sector, in line with the National Development Plan, which sees the country's manufacturing industries as key job creators.

Manufacturing is the second biggest sector in the Western Cape after the financial services sector and contributed 15% to the South African manufacturing sector output of R300 billion in 2012.

Although only the national event's second instalment; the 2015 Manufacturing Indaba in Ekurhuleni surpassed all expectations. The Gauteng Indaba hosted 486 conference delegates, 68 conference speakers, 74 exhibitors, 1 216 exhibition visitors, 34 media houses and achieved a total AVE value across all media platforms of R10 million.

According to Liz Hart, Managing Director of the Manufacturing Indaba, the roll out of provincial road shows has been made possible due to the success of the national event.

"The provincial roadshows of the Manufacturing Indaba speak to the unique challenges and opportunities manufacturers are facing at a provincial level and brings the high level speakers and conference programme to them. This is pivotal in developing the manufacturers and industries in each of the nation's major provinces," says Hart.

Brought to you by the Manufacturing Indaba in conjunction with the Department of Trade & Industry (dti) and the Manufacturing Circle, the programme has input from collaborators such as Wesgro, NCPC-SA, the Western Cape Tooling Initiative and Green Cape, and will address the challenges that are particular to manufacturing businesses based in the Western Cape.

The manufacturing sector in the Western Cape attracts large amounts of inward investment, and enjoys substantial state assistance as an employment-creating industry. Manufactured products include heavy-duty industrial equipment, vehicle parts and electrical equipment. Exporters in this sector have experience in supplying large quantities to buyers from developed and developing countries.

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

More background on the Western Cape

* Economic development in the Western Cape is characterised by a broad sector base, with good growth potential in several major sectors, a range of significant niche sectors and a number of large new investment projects. Rapidly decreasing communication cost levels mean the disadvantages of Cape Town's distance of 1 500 kilometres south of the economic hub of Gauteng and several thousand kilometres from European, American and Asian centres is less and less significant. In line with worldwide trends, South Africa's export-oriented industries tend to shift towards port cities and coastal industrial belts – the drop in import duties and the establishment of Saldanha Steel as a basis for Western Cape heavy industry add more momentum to this shift. The Western Cape has an open economy with foreign trade making up close to 30% of the gross regional product. The province's exports have traditionally been dominated by primary products such as fruit, fish and vegetables, but with beneficiation adding increasingly higher value.

* Information courtesy of Wesgro

