

News Release



BASF South Africa supports mathematics and science education initiative

- **BASF South Africa donates R100 000 to iGEMS programme**
- **Programme aimed at supporting the study of Mathematics and Science amongst the disadvantaged communities of the Nelson Mandela Metropole**
- **Collaborative venture aims to support the chemical and manufacturing industries by providing skilled talent**

Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 15 February 2016. BASF South Africa yesterday made a donation of R100 000 to the Incubating Great Engineering Minds (iGEMS) programme to support the study of Mathematics and Science amongst the disadvantaged communities in the Nelson Mandela Metropole.

iGEMS is a Nelson Mandela Bay based education-to-employment initiative led by the Unity in Africa Foundation, in partnership with Go for Gold and the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. It is a collaboration between companies and civil society created to improve the number of candidates from disadvantaged communities eligible to study towards a technical profession and secure employment.

The programme provides senior high school extra tuition in Mathematics and Science through after-school and Saturday morning tutoring, offers career guidance through an internship 'gap' year at the sponsoring companies, bridges the gap between school and university by providing courses in Maths and Science for the

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internship students in order to better prepare them for university studies, provides information on and access to bursaries for tertiary studies, develops pupils' leadership and community service skills, secures employment with sponsoring companies, and focusses strongly on leadership development.

Launched in 2015 with an initial Grade 11 intake of 16 students, the 2016 intake has seen 15 of these students progress to their second year, and a new intake of 30 Grade 11 pupils. According to iGEMS programme manager, Laurene Booth-Jones, iGEMS is particularly focused on aligning their programme with the needs of the automotive, construction and renewable energy sectors and related industries. "At iGEMS, we are committed to enabling growing numbers of young people from disadvantaged communities in the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage area to benefit from our holistic education and leadership development programme," she said.

BASF South Africa's Port Elizabeth based Mobile Emissions Catalysts Site Director, Paul Allday, said that developing future engineers and scientists is crucial for the success of the chemical and manufacturing industries. "At BASF we are firmly committed to supporting the upliftment of science, mathematics and engineering programmes that will ultimately support the sustainability of our industry," he said. "We are proud to be one of the initial companies to come on board and support this programme and believe that, down the line, we will have played a role in producing a pool of young talent who will be equipped for the workplace."

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About BASF, South Africa

At BASF – we create chemistry and have been doing so in South Africa for 50 years. Headquartered in Midrand, Johannesburg, the BASF Group in South Africa consists of five companies with locations in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. BASF has five production sites, including a world-class automotive emissions catalysts production site in Port Elizabeth. In 2012 BASF invested in a dispersions production plant in Durban which is producing acrylic dispersions, and in 2013 the former Becker-Underwood, now BASF Agricultural Solutions, also forms part of the South African business profile. BASF employs around 1000 people in South Africa.

Industry portfolios represented in the country include chemicals, plastics, dispersions, agricultural products and nutrition. BASF products are used for industrial applications in a variety of sectors including paper, packaging, leather, detergents, cosmetics, construction, mining, agriculture and automotive industries. For further local information visit the Website: www.basf.co.za For news updates, follow us on Twitter @ BASF_Africa and like us on Facebook/BASF_Africa.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry – and have been doing so for 150 years. Our portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. As the world's leading chemical company, we combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of over €74 billion in 2014 and around 113,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.