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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE **east london idz** 

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## ELIDZ CELEBRATES KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILESTONES

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) SOC Ltd recently hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) to present its annual performance results for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2023. This significant event also marks the celebration of ELIDZ's twenty-year journey of remarkable success and achievement in the industrial sector.

During the AGM, ELIDZ highlighted key accomplishments and milestones, reflecting its continued dedication to excellence and growth.

The ELIDZ CEO, Simphiwe Kondlo, commented, "The 2022/23 financial year signifies a momentous milestone in ELIDZ's history, as it marks two decades since our designation as an Industrial Development Zone by the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (the dtic). Reflecting on our accomplishments in the 2022/23 financial year, we do so with a deep appreciation of the robust foundation established over the last 20 years. This foundation is rooted in our vision of creating a lasting economic legacy for our province's communities, underpinned by our organisation's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional results and making an enduring impact."

"The 2022/23 financial year also represents the midpoint in our journey towards Vision 2025, a forward-thinking strategy that drives our ambition not only to excel in our core business but to explore, develop, and promote new strategic initiatives in emerging sectors, such as commercial property development, energy generation, and innovation," adds Kondlo.

The ELIDZ CEO also noted that the 2022/23 financial year persisted in the shadow of global economic sluggishness, prevailing uncertainty, and a heightened sense of investor risk aversion.

"These challenges were exacerbated by the ongoing national energy concerns, which further diminished South Africa's attractiveness to investors. Although the global supply chain disruptions that had profoundly affected the automotive sector in earlier years seemed to have alleviated during the 2022/23 financial year, the sectors' performance within the zone fell short of our initial projections made at the outset of the five-year cycle. Nevertheless, despite these significant challenges, the ELIDZ successfully delivered exceptional results for the financial year."

The following are some of the key performance highlights for the 2022/23 financial year:

- Despite challenges, the ELIDZ achieved significant success, securing four investments totalling R1.9 billion by the financial year end, surpassing the initial R400 million target.
- Furthermore, the ELIDZ successfully initiated the operations of three new investment facilities during the review year, thereby expanding the potential revenue sources for rentals, utilities, and services.
- In the 2022/23 financial year, manufacturing and services job sectors saw remarkable growth, with a cumulative performance of 5,123 jobs, surpassing the target of 4,600 jobs. The agro-processing sector enjoyed a 10% job growth due to opportunities tied to Sundale Schreiber, and the automotive sector, contributing to 70% of the jobs in the zone, experienced a 22% increase.



- The industrial turnover demonstrated significant growth, increasing from R3.5 billion to R4.4 billion year on year, reflecting a remarkable 27.5% increase.
- Export-oriented production also experienced substantial growth, surging by 20% from R2.6 billion to R3.1 billion year on year.
- The ELIDZ STP accomplished two prototypes this year: a marketing platform for agriculture and an app for disadvantaged learners to access study material. In addition to these achievements, the ELIDZ hosts two prominent incubators: Schubert Park, specialising in textiles, and Cisco, dedicated to the information and communication technology sector.
- In the review period, the ELIDZ STP successfully trained 112 beneficiaries through its Skills Development Programme, surpassing the initial target of 90 beneficiaries. This achievement can be attributed to successful partnerships with service and funding providers, an expanded range of training courses, and a positive response from participants.
- By the end of 2022/23, eight contractors received at least a twograde upgrade, with an additional eight achieving a one-grade upgrade, based on the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) calculator. The programme now encompasses 56 SMMEs, exceeding the initial target of 45.
- The ELIDZ was able to provide workplace experience to 55 graduates as part of its internship programme during the financial year, exceeding the set target of 30.
- This year, ELIDZ granted 15 bursaries to Mathematics and Science university students in dire need of financial support. Furthermore, ELIDZ successfully executed 17 Corporate Social Investment initiatives, with a particular focus on education, youth and sports development, community development, and enterprise development.
- The ELIDZ maintains its commitment to best practices, as demonstrated by its retention of ISO Certifications in Environment, Quality, and ICT. Additionally, the 2022/23 financial year marked the 8th consecutive year of achieving a clean audit for the organisation.

"In celebrating the performance results of the ELIDZ for the 2022/23 financial year, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our exceptional team of employees and the dedicated Executive Management, whose unwavering dedication and contributions have been instrumental in achieving these remarkable outcomes. Additionally, we wish to recognise and express our deep appreciation for the pivotal roles played by our esteemed shareholders, valued investors, dedicated tenants, trusted partners, and all our significant stakeholders who have been integral to our journey over the past two decades," closing remarks by ELIDZ Board Chairperson, Professor Mlungisi Makalima.



KEY PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



















INCUBATORS ACTIVE ON ELIDZ PLATFORM

CONSTRUCTION Jobs Created In the zone in

2022 / 2023





### ELIDZ MAKES GREAT STRIDES IN ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN CAPE

Empowering the future with the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Science and Technology Park (STP). While it is a common saying that young people hold the key to the future, not many organisations invest significantly in their development. The ELIDZ STP continues to lead the way in propelling innovation, prototype development, and skills enhancement, demonstrating a dedicated commitment to nurturing the potential of our youth.

In conjunction with the 17th Eastern Cape Annual ICT Summit, we are thrilled to share the news that our Science and Technology Park (STP) has conducted Game Development training using Scratch for 30 learners from Ebeneezer Majombozi High School and the Centre of Excellence High School.

Scratch is a free programming language developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), offering a user-friendly visual interface for creating digital stories, games, and animations. Scratch aims to promote computational thinking, problem-solving skills, creative learning, self-expression, and collaboration, fostering a mindset of creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving.

This impactful program not only equipped learners with valuable skills for creating gaming and animation activities but also opened avenues for career development and entrepreneurial opportunities. Customised for schools with learners from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, this insightful training imparts knowledge on developing gaming and animation activities.

The learners expressed their appreciation to the ELIDZ STP for providing them with an opportunity to benefit from the innovation and skills development initiatives offered by the ELIDZ STP. They also expressed their gratitude to the facilitators who devoted their time to educate, motivate, and inspire them toward greater achievements. The group of Learners was awarded certificates of completion during the summit.

Addressing the summit, Ms Ludwe Macingwane, Manager: ELIDZ STP, expressed her delight in the ELIDZ STP being recognised as one of the establishments playing a significant role in accelerating skills development in the Eastern Cape Province.

Ms Macingwane emphasized, "The ELIDZ STP remains at the forefront of innovation and skills cultivation, aiming to foster the emergence of future entrepreneurs and innovators. The ELIDZ STP continues to make tireless strides to intensify our drive to boost skills development and innovation."

She added that the ELIDZ STP is working to establish strategic collaborations with relevant stakeholders for the betterment of the Eastern Cape province.

"Thus far, the ELIDZ STP has trained over 2000 participants in various courses such as digital skills, AutoCAD, learnerships on solar panel installation, auto-body mechanic, etc. working with various stakeholders including the UIF, MBLSA, etc." said Ms Macingwane.

Despite the infrastructure challenges facing the Eastern Cape Province, the ELIDZ STP offers immersive hands-on learning experiences, creating a wealth of knowledge enrichment opportunities. Making it happen through ELIDZ STP.

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G PLATFORM

## **EMPOWERING SMMES THROUGH INNOVATION**

Dedicated to leveraging its wealth of knowledge, the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP) is unwavering in its commitment to improve the quality of life of all South Africans. At the forefront of this mission is a strategic focus on national priorities, including vital aspects such as job creation, fostering inclusive economic growth, and addressing challenges related to poverty reduction and community development.

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Central to this vision is the pivotal role of small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) within the Innovation sector, recognised as key contributors to innovation and transformation.

The imperative lies in equipping these enterprises with the requisite skills and opportunities essential for their growth and success.

At the heart of the ELIDZ STP's commitment to driving impact is the provision of unparalleled access for SMMEs to our state-of-theart facilities. Among these, the Design Centre stands as a vibrant nucleus for fabrication and creation of prototypes within the ELIDZ STP. More than just a physical space, our STP serves as an incubator for transformative ideas, offering an ideal setting for ambitious innovators to bring their concepts to fruition.

In the heart of economic expansion, the ELIDZ STP fuels the growth of high-tech SMMEs and innovators. As a catalyst for job creation and recognising their vital role in our economy, the ELIDZ STP stands as a staunch supporter in the evolving technological landscape. We provide a robust ecosystem beyond infrastructure, offering comprehensive support mechanisms, including training, skills development, and dedicated prototype development spaces. Embracing collaboration, the ELIDZ STP forms strategic partnerships with SMME development funders, corporate social investment initiatives, and foundations, ensuring a holistic approach to enterprise support. To empower SMMEs and reduce barriers to entry, the ELIDZ STP has supported 18 SMMEs in developing prototypes. SMMEs play an important role in driving economic growth and development. In the evolving landscape of global economy, which is increasingly knowledge-based, innovation has become important for businesses to sustain growth and development, as well as achieve socio-economic goals.

In conclusion, while innovation stands as a critical driver of growth, it remains a challenge in South Africa. Recognising the socio-economic hurdles faced by SMMEs and potential innovators in the country, there is a pressing need to reconsider strategies and foster collaborations with key stakeholders. South Africa, acknowledging the pivotal role of innovation in growth and development, has formulated policy frameworks urging both the public and private sectors to prioritise and champion innovation.

By collectively addressing these challenges and embracing a culture of innovation, we can pave the way for a brighter future and sustained prosperity for SMMEs and innovators in South Africa.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS: INITIATING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

Bernd Oellermann, senior project manager of the National Cleaner Production Centre-South Africa (NCPC-SA) talks to MechChem Africa about eco- industrial parks and the symbiotic initiatives being adopted to assure long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability.



"Eco industrial parks are not just environmentally friendly. They involve embracing and balancing three key pillars – environmental, economic and social sustainability," begins Bernd Oellermann, the senior project manager at the NCPC-SA in South Africa.

"There's no point in governments and civil society talking about sustainability if we don't take industry along. But to properly introduce and translate sustainability into an industrial space, dealing with all three of these critical aspects is imperative. That is the whole point of the eco-industrial park approach, trying to assist industry to make a balanced sustainability transition that includes environmental, economic and social components," he explains.

He introduces a simple thermodynamic perspective: "In any closed system, resources are limited. In a chemical reaction, for example, the reaction can only continue until one or more of the reactants runs out. Then the reaction stops.

"Our planet is facing this issue. It has a limited number of resources we can extract. Based on scientific calculations, we know that we cannot expect to continue using those resources in the same way we've always done. We have to become smarter about how industry uses the resources they need to manufacture products. But industry needs assistance in making this change," argues Oellermann.

"The amazing 'side-effect' of adopting resource efficiency, though, is that it has a direct impact on the competitiveness of industry. Even in the shorter term, costs can be reduced, profitability improved and economic sustainability secured," he assures.

Looking at energy alone, he cites an industrial symbiosis programme that the NCPC-SA ran with GreenCape a few years ago for a producer of plastic products in the Western Cape. "In just two years, the monthly electricity bill was reduced by 70%. And the bill wasn't that high to begin with, if I recall correctly. But this shows just how much cost saving potential there is, even for SMEs," he says.

"And if these kinds of savings can be replicated at significant numbers of industrial sites, imagine the positive impact this will have on our ailing electricity grid?" he asks.

Energy and water, he continues, are inter-related imperatives for South Africa. They are typically the primary resources of concern for South African industry and a key target for NCPC-SA initiatives. "We try to first improve production efficiency with respect to energy and water before moving on to looking at material resource use, because the materials often link back to the design process of a product, so changes require a more intensive engagement with engineering and design," he explains.

"In food production, though, we talk about the food-water-energy nexus. Water consumption is so important in South Africa because our average country wide rainfall is low, in the order of about 400-450 mm per year, on average, which makes South Africa a water scarce country. The Department of Water and Sanitation projects that, by 2030, unless we improve our consumption behaviour, we are going to have a 17% shortfall in fresh water needs across the country – and 2030 is just around the corner," he points out.

But there are a whole range of initiatives being implemented in this area. "We are losing between 30 and 40% of our potable water through leaks," he points out. "If we could just reduce that by half, we will be well placed to avoiding the 2030 shortfall. We are also working with the industries dependant on water, such as the textiles industry, for example, to improve their usage and water recovery rates, and with agriculture, which uses between 60 and 70% of the available fresh water resources in South Africa.

#### **Eco-Industrial Parks (EIPs)**

The NCPC-SA looks at parks that are zoned for industrial activity. The smallest estates might have 20 companies, while some of the larger ones can cover 1 000 ha and have hundreds of businesses from micro to macro in size. Oellermann cites Wadeville as typical example of a large industrial estate, which includes companies such as MacSteel, Scaw Metals, Protea Chemicals and many more.

"The Eco-Industrial Park (EIP) framework enables us to assist at the park level, helping industries to collaborate with each other, with the local municipality and the local community and to put in place processes that address environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability. We strive to unlock these things in a neutral fashion, creating safe spaces where people can engage constructively for mutual benefit, so they do not get stuck on specific agendas," he says. "Our approach is to ask what companies and people can bring to the table, not so much about what they want to take away. This is a guiding principle of the EIP approach, and it works really well in South Africa," Oellermann believes.

When prompted for a flagship example, he cites the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), is a greenfield development transforming over 400 hectares of prime land into a world-class industrial location that attracts globally competitive manufacturers. "This is one of South Africa's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and it falls within the dtic's SEZ programme. It is also our 'lighthouse' ecoindustrial park in South Africa," he notes.

Developed using support from the dtic, this park currently embraces 51 of the key components included in the global EIP framework for eco-Industrial development.

To begin, there exists a well-established governance structure headed by East London Industrial Development Zone SOC Ltd. This operational entity assumes responsibility for the supervision of the industrial park and its associated services. "Carbon emission mitigation is a key eco indicator, for which the ELIDZ score is really high, above 90%," he believes, as measured according to an EIP-monitoring tool developed by UNIDO for evaluating eco-industrial sites.

Describing some of the carbon mitigation initiatives, he cites the transition to renewable energy as an example. "There are a number of renewable energy projects currently underway. We at the NCPC-SA are supporting the implementation of rooftop solar PV, and looking at wind energy, which is implemented at park level, because East London is an ideal location for renewable wind power."

In terms of material resources, the ELIDZ has Clariter South Africa, one of their investors dedicated to recycling initiatives. Clariter South Africa is actively engaged in collecting waste from various companies within the park, evaluating its potential for recycling and repurposing, and advancing the necessary pre-processing procedures to make this endeavor viable. "Notably, they are already processing specific types of waste plastics sourced from park-based companies, with the aim of making them available for reuse by other businesses," he reveals.

From a social aspect, the ELIDZ works with the local Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM), which is doing a fantastic job across East London, contributing towards long-term planning of municipal services and collaborating on development issues. The ELIDZ, BCMM and local universities also work with the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP), which collaborates on Research & Development (R&D) for the benefit of the park's sectors and for the city. "The ELIDZ STP is typically looking at innovative solutions that could eventually assist in resolving local issues be it service delivery or new innovative products making the lives of the people better. Innovation can used for resource optimisation for the whole of Buffalo City. It provides a facility for economic development issues to be advanced in collaboration with researchers, academia and innovators, so that new resource efficient solutions can be developed piloted and commercialised," he explains.

Many of the social aspects of the EIP are incorporated through South Africa's relatively strong Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997, which specifies the basic conditions of employment, including the working conditions and amenities for both men and women. In addition, though, other community projects such as collectively supporting the community schools are also being implemented. Many EIP companies have a corporate social responsibility budget, which they are encouraged to spend on educational and community projects that develop and support the local community in terms of education, training and development, while also targeting future employment needs within the park.

"All the work we do at the NCPC-SA helps to transition industry to becoming sustainable. The core programme, which is funded by the Swiss government through UNIDO's Global Eco Industrial Park programme, is a global initiative that is being trialled in just seven countries in the world, with South Africa being one of them. And at local policy level, the dtic and the National Treasury have adopted the EIP approach as being central to South Africa's interventions for industrial parks across the country," notes Oellermann.

From an individual company perspective, he says that adopting an NCPC-SA programme is commitment-free and need not require expensive investments in green technologies. An initial free assessment simply strives to put industrial manufacturers on a long term sustainable path.

"We look at industry's production processes at factory level, assess their energy, water and resource use, and then seek opportunities for improving that usage. This actually saves on the real costs of production for each company, while simultaneously turning us all down the path towards cleaner and more sustainable production processes," he says.

"Ultimately, we exist to help industry to successfully negotiate every aspect of the sustainability transition and to ensure that they avoid the pitfalls associated with continuing on the increasingly dangerous path we are currently on," concludes Bernd Oellermann.



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### **ELIDZ SHOWCASES BUSINESS BRILLIANCE** THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY TRADESHOWS

In the dynamic landscape of industrial development, staying at the forefront requires more than just cutting-edge infrastructure and innovative initiatives. It demands active engagement, strategic networking, and a commitment to showcasing capabilities. The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), cognisant of these imperatives, has embraced a proactive approach by actively participating in industry-related tradeshows.

In the highly competitive landscape of industrial development, the ELIDZ has recognised the transformative power of participation in industry exhibitions. This strategic decision positions the ELIDZ among a select gathering of industry-centred guests, creating an opportunity to showcase a comprehensive range of opportunities, products, and services under one umbrella. Tradeshows, functioning as dynamic hubs of business interaction, not only offer the ELIDZ a platform to exhibit its cutting-edge infrastructure and initiatives but also provide a unique chance to connect with a diverse audience. The objective is clear – to build brand proximity within the industry.

The ELIDZ is earnestly cultivating positive relationships with its customer base, recognising that the fortification of this foundation directly contributes to the overall strength of the ELIDZ. Notably, we participated in the following industry shows to actively engage with our stakeholders:

- Eastern Cape Export Symposium It brings together not only current and new local exporters but also international trade partners, trade policy experts, government support agencies, financiers, logistics and infrastructure role-players under one roof.
- **Eastern Cape Investment Conference** The event provided an opportunity to achieve two overarching objectives: (1) Promoting exports and supply networks (via access to market, resources, and current research) (2) Synergising resources and focus of a wide range of export-related-role-players that optimises export efficiency and economic growth.

The NAACAM Show addresses key topics in the automotive sector with a focus on long-term, sustainable growth of SA automotive and components manufacturing.

- Africa Free Trade Expo An event that seeks to promote the African Continental Free Trade area (AfCFTA) and a platform for South African entrepreneurs to learn about opportunities.
- SA Auto Week A great platform to showcase the ELIDZ Automotive service offerings and to gain access to the entire automotive value chain under one roof.
- Green Hydrogen Summit A platform where regional and continental collaboration by African states is key to achieving green hydrogens potential as a vector to reindustrialise South Africa's economy in a manner which is sustainable.
- ICT Summit A powerhouse where businesses engage in talks, networking for business development opportunities, and create platforms to strategize and discuss new topical ICT issues, trends, innovative ideas, and other communications. The summit prime platform is to showcase the latest trends and solutions within the industry across South Africa.

In the contemporary competitive landscape, offering top-notch services and groundbreaking opportunities alone is insufficient. Staying abreast of emerging trends is imperative. Public expos serve as unparalleled collaboration opportunities, drawing in industry experts actively seeking new business ventures. Therefore, active participation in these platforms is crucial for staying connected and seizing potential opportunities.



• **NAACAM Show** – A premium forum to showcase the capabilities of the domestic automotive components manufacturing sector.



# east london idz **EXPLORE INNOVATION** The ELIDZ STP Design Centre - Making it happen!



The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Science and Technology Park (STP) Design Centre offers immersive hands-on learning experiences, creating a wealth of knowledge enrichment opportunities. Our state-of-the-art facility is open to a diverse range of stakeholders seeking to develop their prototypes and products.

With affordable and subsidised rates, this resource is equally suitable for individual projects and collaborative endeavours, making it the ultimate hub for innovation and growth.

Nestled within the ELIDZ STP, the Design Centre is a thriving hub for innovation. Our facility is an ideal location for those seeking cutting-edge resources to bring their ideas to life. Kitted with state-of-the-art equipment, our offerings encompass a wide range of services, ranging from training and skills development to product and prototype development, we are your gateway to innovation.

We are committed to nurturing the next generation of rapid prototyping tools by laying the foundation for innovation and progress. Together, we are shaping a brighter future.

If you are looking for a faster way of producing your ideas into reality, contact our ELIDZ STP Design Centre staff today:

Ludwe Macingwane - T: 087 373 0702 / E: Ludwe@elidz.co.za Ayanda Ndinise - T: 043 101 0195 / E: ayandan@elidz.co.za Viwe Klaas - T: 043 101 0797 / E: viwek@elidz.co.za

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Together, let's unlock the full potential of your business with the ELIDZ's ICT services. Experience excellence that drives success!



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The laboratory adheres to government and industry regulations, which establish guidelines for acceptable pathogenic and non-pathogenic micro-organisms in specific samples and food groups. It also ensures compliance by following green drop specifications and adhering to SANAS 241, which serves as a benchmark for environmental testing.

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- Groundwater / Borehole Water Analysis: We examine water from boreholes, wells, and spring sources.
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- Wastewater Analysis: We assess wastewater and its compliance with environmental standards.
- Inorganic Analysis Major Cations/Anions: We analyse the major cations and anions present in water to understand its chemical composition.
- Physicochemical Analysis: Examination of physical and chemical properties of substances.
- Microbiological Analysis: We perform microbial testing to detect the presence of microorganisms.
- **Metal Scan:** We conduct tests to identify the presence of metals in various samples.
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