

ZONEBEAT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE *east london idz*



IN THIS EDITION...

PAGE

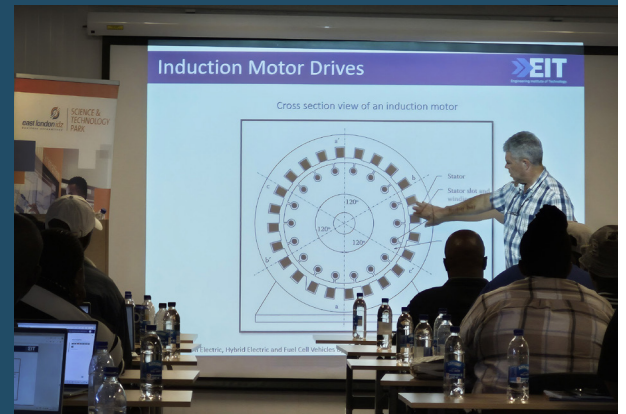
2. | ELIDZ-STP HOSTS AN INNOVATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE FUNDAMENTALS
3. | UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES IN E-WASTE & SOLAR PV RECYCLING
4. | EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: ELIDZ'S 2024/25 FY CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVES
6. | UNLOCK BUSINESS GROWTH WITH ELIDZ'S TAILORED ICT SOLUTIONS
7. | ELIDZ CONFERENCE CENTRE: THE STATE-OF-THE-ART CONFERENCE FACILITY



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ELIDZ-STP HOSTS AN INNOVATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ELECTRIC VEHICLE FUNDAMENTALS

The East London Industrial Development Zone, Science and Technology Park (ELIDZ-STP) recently hosted a five-day Professional Certificate of Competency in Fundamentals of Electric Vehicles (EV) training workshop. The programme is designed to upskill professionals, entrepreneurs, and the unemployed in the automotive sector by providing in-depth knowledge and practical experience in EV technology.



The workshop took place from 10 - 14 March 2025 at the ELIDZ-STP, drawing significant interest from across the Eastern Cape. Out of over 800 applications, 30 carefully selected participants were chosen to attend, ensuring a focused and impactful training experience.

These participants included engineers, mechanics, auto-electricians, and other professionals and entrepreneurs already working in or looking to transition into the EV sector. Their enthusiasm reflected a growing interest in electric mobility and the need for specialised skills in this rapidly evolving industry.

The workshop ensured that participants gain a well-rounded understanding of electric vehicles. Training was conducted by an industry expert from the Engineering Institute of Technology (EIT), an Australian-based organisation recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

The training covered a broad spectrum of EV technology fundamentals, including:

- **Introduction to EVs: Understanding electric, hybrid, and fuel cell vehicles.**
- **Vehicle Components: EV layouts, power electronics, batteries, and charging infrastructure.**
- **Electric Propulsion Systems: Motors, energy consumption, and performance.**
- **Hybrid Drive Trains: Electrical coupling, control strategies, and design principles.**
- **Safety & Hazard Management: High-voltage precautions, safe work procedures, and hazard mitigation.**

Participants engaged in interactive learning exercises, applying their newly acquired knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Participants in due course will be issued with industry-recognised professional certificates. This certification is a critical step in preparing South Africa's workforce to meet the increasing demand for electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

The initiative aligns with the South African Automotive Masterplan (SAAM) 2035, which highlights skills development as a key strategic pillar in achieving the country's long-term objectives for the automotive industry. Developing expertise in EV technology is essential as South Africa moves toward a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

With more than 120 automotive manufacturers operating in the Eastern Cape, the sector plays a pivotal role in the region's economy. The province is home to four major automotive manufacturers, with three based in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality and one in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality. As the industry shifts toward electric mobility, the ELIDZ-STP aims to ensure that local professionals and entrepreneurs remain competitive and well-equipped for emerging opportunities.

One of the challenges facing South Africa's transition to electric mobility is the lack of formal qualifications focused specifically on EV technology.

To bridge this gap, the ELIDZ-STP is leveraging on its global networks such as International Association of Science Parks (IASP) and other global partners to provide specialised, high-quality training programs.

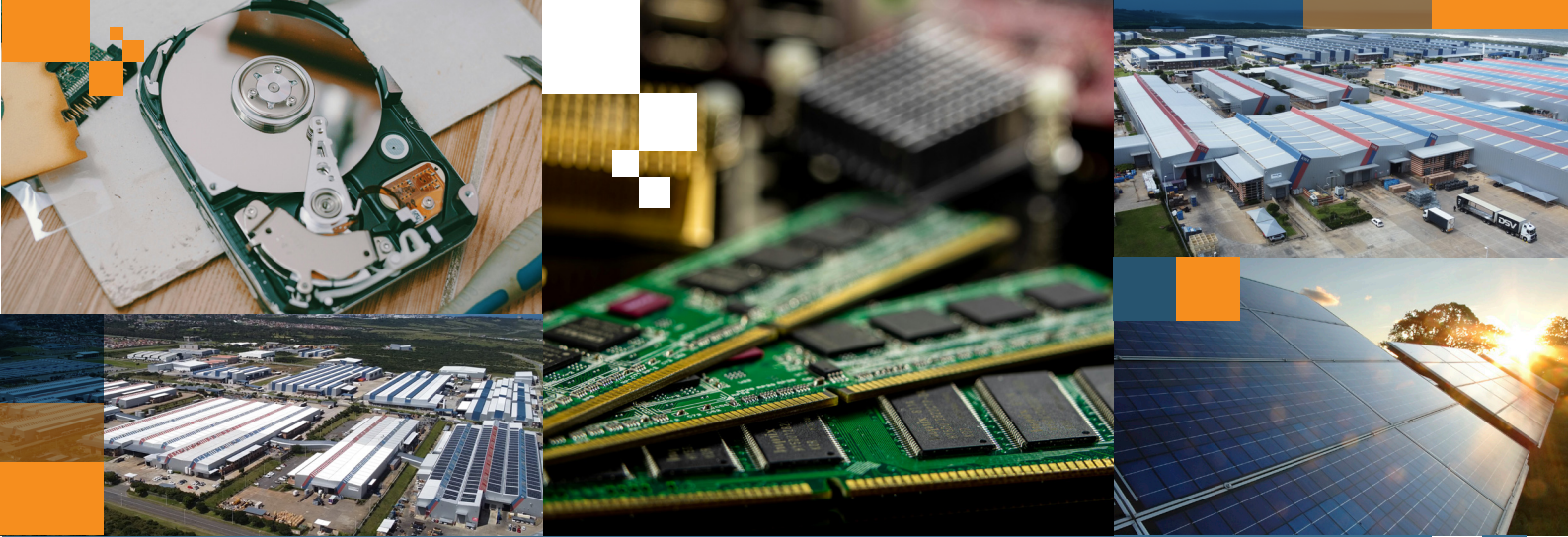
The goal is to equip professionals with cross-disciplinary expertise in key areas such as:

- **Prototype development (hardware, software, and testing).**
- **Electrical and electronic systems for EV design.**
- **Embedded product development for in-vehicle and external data networking.**
- **Problem-solving, analytical, and creative skills for EV innovation.**

By collaborating with internationally recognised institutions, the ELIDZ-STP is ensuring that South African professionals receive world-class training that meets both local and global industry standards.

As the global shift to electric mobility accelerates, initiatives like this training workshop are vital for creating a competitive and sustainable workforce. The ELIDZ-STP remains committed to partnering with industry leaders to provide cutting-edge training programs that support the growth of the EV sector and contribute to South Africa's green economy transition.

The ELIDZ-STP plans to expand its EV training initiatives, ensuring that local professionals are not only prepared for current industry demands but also equipped to innovate and lead in the future of electric mobility. With the right training and industry support, South Africa's automotive workforce will be well-positioned to drive the future of electric mobility. The ELIDZ-STP is committed to playing a leading role in this transformation, ensuring the region remains at the forefront of EV innovation and sustainable development.



UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES IN E-WASTE & SOLAR PV RECYCLING: *A Call for Visionary Investors*

The urgency for sustainability is greater than ever. As technology rapidly advances, the volume of electronic waste (e-waste) and solar photovoltaic (PV) panels reaching the end of their life cycle is skyrocketing. This presents both an environmental challenge and a multi-billion-dollar investment opportunity.

The global e-waste market is expected to grow rapidly by 2028, while solar PV waste is projected to increase exponentially as early solar installations approach decommissioning. Solar panels contain valuable materials such as silicon, silver, copper, and rare metals, making them a critical area for sustainable recycling solutions. Alarming, less than 10% of solar panels are currently being recycled, leaving a significant gap in the market.

For investors, this is more than just a profitable venture, it is an opportunity to drive environmental sustainability, job creation, and economic growth in a high-demand sector.

The ELIDZ offers an exceptional investment platform for businesses looking to establish or scale e-waste and solar PV recycling operations. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, government incentives, and strategic market positioning, the ELIDZ provides the ideal environment for investors to enter this high-growth industry.

Strategic Market Positioning

Proximity to key ports and logistical hubs makes ELIDZ an ideal gateway for domestic processing and global exports of recovered materials.

Expanding Local Market

With South Africa increasing its renewable energy adoption, demand for solar panel decommissioning and recycling is set to rise. This opens new opportunities for local processing instead of relying on costly imports.

Government Incentives

Investors can benefit from tax incentives, grants, and regulatory support to enhance the viability of recycling initiatives.

Custom-Built, World-Class Recycling Facilities

ELIDZ can develop advanced, tailor-made industrial spaces to meet investor needs, incorporating cutting-edge technologies and technical support to optimise recycling processes for e-waste and solar PV panels.

Supportive Ecosystem

ELIDZ fosters collaborations among investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators, promoting a circular economy and sustainable resource recovery.

The recycling sector is at a significant turning point. With e-waste and solar PV waste volumes soaring, the need for effective recycling solutions is at an all-time high. Early investors stand to gain a first-mover advantage in a rapidly expanding, multi-billion-dollar industry.

The ELIDZ invites forward-thinking investors to be part of this transformation.

Our infrastructure, resources, and networks are designed to help you establish a profitable and sustainable recycling business. Let's turn e-waste and solar PV waste into opportunity. Partner with the ELIDZ today.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: ELIDZ'S 2024/25 FY CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVES

Through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiative, the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) is consistent in its dedication to improving communities. ELIDZ implemented a number of significant initiatives during the 2024/2025 financial year with the goal of promoting education, youth development, community welfare, and economic empowerment. These programs significantly improved a number of communities in the Eastern Cape through partnerships and tireless efforts.

Educational Support

As an essential element of the CSI program, ELIDZ made education a top priority, guaranteeing that students from underprivileged backgrounds received much-needed assistance. The contribution of 120 full school uniform kits helped a number of East London schools, such as Umtiza High School, Sinomonde Primary School, and Coveridge Primary School. These contributions made it possible for learners to go to school with confidence and dignity.

Additionally, Gcinubuzwe High School and Three Crowns Senior Primary School in Lady Frere received R50,000 worth of school shoes and sanitary towels from ELIDZ in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Provincial Government's Back-to-School Program. To ensure that a wider range of disadvantaged learners benefited from the program, ELIDZ and Teelo Foundation supplied school uniforms to several schools in Tsholomnqa, the event took place in Xhamini Hall as part of their ongoing commitment to creating a pleasant learning environment.

The opening of Umtiza High School's Community-Based Digital (4IR) Computer Laboratory was one of the most revolutionary educational efforts. This project, which had the total cost of R550,000 (R350,000 from Microsoft South Africa and R200,000 from ELIDZ), sought to improve digital literacy and close the digital gap. With 30 laptops, internet access, and backup power, the state-of-the-art lab, which is located in a transformed shipping container, provides learners and the local community with essential technology resources.

Sports and Youth Development

Understanding the importance of sports for young people's development, ELIDZ made year-round investments in a range of sports-related projects. ELIDZ CEO Thembele Zweni and Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane

collaborated to donate R120,000 worth of sporting goods to Cosmos Sports Club, Evergreen Rugby Club, and Hotspot Boxing Academy. In the same spirit, the West Bank Sports Council and the BCM Suns Wheelchair Basketball Club were given essential equipment to further promote inclusivity and sports participation in Buffalo City.

Community Upliftment and Social Welfare

ELIDZ's social responsibility initiatives went beyond sports and education. ELIDZ renovated the Masizakhe Children's Home in honour of Nelson Mandela Month in collaboration with Boratech Energy Group and Junoscan Construction. Along with fixing structural issues like roof leaks, painting, plumbing, and electrical repairs, the team delivered necessities like a heavy-duty washing machine.

In yet another act of kindness, ELIDZ demonstrated its dedication to helping individuals in need of hospice care by providing necessary materials to St. Bernard's Hospice. Furthermore, a container facility was given to the Trauma and Rehabilitation Centre (TRC) in Nxamnkwana Village, Mdantsane, enhancing its ability to assist members of the community who are experiencing difficulties.

Empowering Agriculture and Sustainable Development

Acknowledging the role of sustainable agriculture in economic development, ELIDZ donated farming equipment to the Rabula Farming Cooperative in Keiskammahoek. This initiative aims to boost local agricultural productivity, foster job creation, and contribute to food security within the region.

Celebrating and Supporting the Elderly

Demonstrating its commitment to social cohesion, ELIDZ hosted its Annual Christmas Party for the elderly in Ward 46, East London. The event was an expression of gratitude

and appreciation for the senior community members, featuring the presence of a 90-year-old woman whose wisdom and experiences inspired attendees. ELIDZ ensured that every elder received Christmas gifts, reinforcing the spirit of togetherness and recognition.

Advancing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

ELIDZ joined the Women's Day celebrations in Misgund, KouKamma region, Sarah Baartman District, under the theme "Count Her In: Accelerating Gender Equality Through Economic Development." In support of this initiative, ELIDZ donated blankets and sanitary pads valued at R50,000, highlighting its unwavering dedication to gender equality and women empowerment.

The 2024/25 financial year has been a testament to ELIDZ's enduring commitment to Corporate Social Investment. By focusing on education, youth empowerment, social welfare, and sustainable development, ELIDZ continues to make a meaningful difference in communities across the Eastern Cape. These initiatives not only address immediate needs but also lay the foundation for long-term growth and empowerment, ensuring that no one is left behind.

As ELIDZ looks ahead, its dedication to transformative community engagement remains unwavering. Through continued partnerships and investments, the organisation reaffirms its mission of building stronger, more inclusive communities for generations to come.





THE ELIDZ - WHERE INNOVATION MEETS OPPORTUNITIES TAILORED FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY AND GROWTH

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) is a standing model of business excellence, providing cutting-edge, compelling and comprehensive services carefully designed to foster growth and empower your business.

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) delivers outstanding services and offers businesses the opportunity to flourish in this rapidly expanding industry. Having been awarded three International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certificates for ICT standards: ISO 27001, ISO 27017 and ISO 27018 – the ELIDZ demonstrates its steadfast commitment to proactively maintain the highest security standards. With offerings ranging from cybersecurity to software development, the ELIDZ is dedicated to supporting the growth of companies across ICT niches.

Our ICT offering is as follows:

- **Infrastructure Solutions:** *Optimising your ICT infrastructure to ensure seamless connectivity and enhanced data security.*
- **Software Solutions:** *We deliver reliable and scalable solutions that drive digital transformation.*
- **BaaS & DRaaS:** *We've got your off-site backup and disaster recovery compliance needs covered.*
- **IT Support and Managed Services:** *With our ICT savvy specialists and managed services, you can focus on your core business while take care of your ICT needs.*

Strategically positioned on key trade routes provides exceptional advantages to ICT companies with its proximity to major trade markets. Accessibility to transportation hubs such as the Port of East London and King Phalo Airport ensures seamless connectivity, enabling efficient logistics and distribution networks. This optimal, prime location not only boosts market reach, but also encourages partnerships on a global scale.

The ELIDZ offers investment incentives tailored to support ICT, making it an attractive choice for companies seeking to establish themselves in the Zone. Furthermore, efficient regulatory processes and support services

simplify business operations, allowing enterprises to focus on their growth. By partnering with various organisations, the ELIDZ fosters a collaborative environment that promotes knowledge exchange and skills development – laying the foundation for future innovation.

We also offer the following ICT services:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Cloud Services | • Fibre Connectivity |
| • Data Centre Colocation | • Telephony & Internet Services |

Leading the way in digital transformation, the ELIDZ ICT Sector continues to innovate, offering compelling services for business pursuing growth and opportunity. The ELIDZ represents an ideal starting point to unleash their full potential and shape the promising future of technology. Equipped with skilled, hands-on and tech savvy professionals, this industrial development zone is ready to drive innovation and meet the industry's ever-evolving demands.

With robust infrastructure and adaptable solutions, join the ELIDZ where innovation thrives without limits - offering boundless opportunities.

Explore the benefits our organisation offers today and experience how our bespoke tailored ICT services revolutionise your business operations.

Together, let's unlock new possibilities and propel your success to unprecedented heights.





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Host Your Next Event at the ELIDZ **CONFERENCE CENTRE**

The **State-of-the-Art** Conference
Facility for Every Occasion

Experience world-class conferencing at the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Conference Centre, where cutting-edge technology and exceptional service come together to create seamless events. Whether you are looking to host large functions, mid-size conferences, award ceremonies, intimate board meetings, the ELIDZ conference centre is the place for you. We tailor make our solution to your specific requirements.

Our venue features:

- **Advanced audio-visual equipment** – roving & lapel microphones, large, automated projector screens, overhead projectors, and DVD equipment.
- **Free Wi-Fi connection** available to conference attendees
- **Versatile event spaces** – four rooms that can be transformed into a grand venue, accommodating over 200 guests.
- **Custom seating arrangements** – perfect for conferences, banquets, workshops, and boardroom meetings.
- **Universal Accessibility** – The ELIDZ conference centre is designed to cater for the disabled.
- **Secured parking** is available within the facility including dedicated parking bays for the disabled.

Convenient Location

– Just 2km from the Airport!

Easily accessible and designed for efficiency, comfort, and sophistication, the ELIDZ Conference Centre is the ideal venue for your next gathering.

Venue Capacity

Our venue offers flexible seating arrangements, accommodating up to 230 guests in cinema style, 150 for banqueting, 140 in classroom style, 142 in U-shape/horse shoe, and customizable boardroom setups for smaller groups.

Exceptional Catering to Keep Your Guests Energized

Our scrumptious meals leave you with a memorable experience. We offer breakfast menus, cocktail menus, and full buffet menu. Special Dietary requirements such as Halaal, Vegetarian and Vegan are available on request.

Standard conference catering package includes:

- Arrival tea, coffee & juice
- Mid-morning tea with savory snacks
- Hearty lunch with a soft drink
- Afternoon tea with biscuits

**Book Now
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Call us: +27 43 702 8200 / 49
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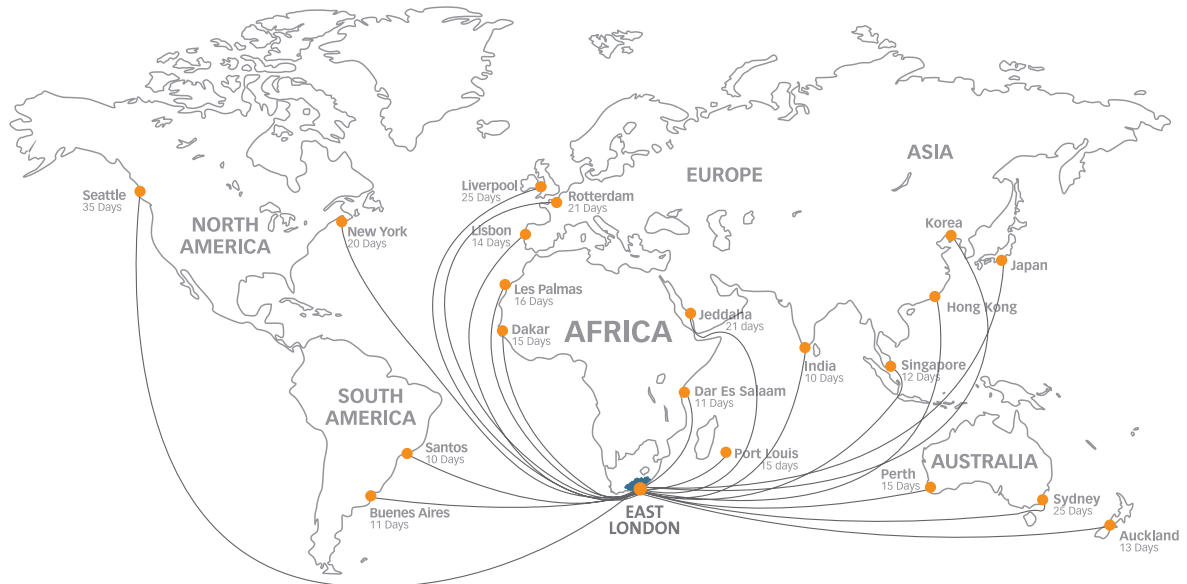
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