

ZONEBEAT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE *east london idz*



IN THIS EDITION...

PAGE

- 2.** | **STRATEGIC SHIFTS & BOLD CONVERSATIONS:** EASTERN CAPE HOSTS HIGH-IMPACT AUTOMOTIVE ROUNDTABLE
- 3.** | **DRIVING THE AUTOMOTIVE FUTURE:** NAACAM SHOW 2025
- 4.** | **SA AUTO WEEK 2025:** DRIVING THE EASTERN CAPE'S AUTOMOTIVE FUTURE
- 5.** | **DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION** AT GOVTECH 2025
- 5.** | **ADVANCING INNOVATION, IMPACT, AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH** THROUGH STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS
- 6.** | **PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT:** AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR IN FOCUS
- 7.** | **EMPOWERING WOMEN:** HONOURING LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP
- 9.** | **A DECADE OF CLEAN AUDITS:** ANCHORED IN EXCELLENCE
- 9.** | **CSI IN ACTION:** COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT
- 10.** | **INNOVATION IN MOTION:** EMPOWERING EASTERN CAPE INNOVATORS AND FUTURE-READY SKILLS
- 12.** | **EASTERN CAPE:** A CALL FOR COMMUNITY-CENTRED CLIMATE RESILIENCE



east london idz
business streamlined

INNOVATION, IMPACT, AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH: SHAPING A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES

The second quarter of the financial year has been marked by strategic engagements, innovation showcases, and a reaffirmation of the ELIDZ's commitment to inclusive development.

From national platforms to local communities, the organisation continues to build futures through technology, partnerships, and purpose.

This period reflects a deepening of the Zone's role as a catalyst for transformation — where infrastructure meets innovation, and where development is driven by both vision and values. Each engagement, initiative, and milestone reinforces the message that industrial growth is most sustainable when it is inclusive, people-centred, and forward-looking.

STRATEGIC SHIFTS & BOLD CONVERSATIONS: EASTERN CAPE HOSTS HIGH-IMPACT AUTOMOTIVE ROUNDTABLE

Before the buzz of the NAACAM Show 2025, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, in partnership with the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), proudly hosted the NAAMSA Thought Leadership Roundtable.



CLICK HERE
TO VIEW
GALLERY

Held at the ELIDZ Conference Centre, the event set the tone for the automotive industry engagements, bringing together government, industry, and business leaders for a day of deep reflection and bold thinking.

Under the theme “**South African Inc. Amidst Geopolitical Tensions – The Automotive Sector Case Study**,” the Roundtable explored how South Africa's automotive industry can remain globally competitive while navigating the evolving realities of international trade and geopolitics.

ELIDZ Board Chairperson, Mr. Motse Mfuleni, opened the session by positioning the zone as a strategic enabler of industrial transformation. He spoke about the importance of building resilient ecosystems that not only sustain growth but also advance inclusivity and innovation.

MEC Nonkqubela Pieters, representing the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), provided an overview of the province's strategic response to the recent US tariffs affecting local OEMs and suppliers. Her remarks highlighted the need for proactive adaptation, emphasizing the importance of strengthening localisation, fostering innovation, and diversifying exports to secure the future of the province's automotive industry.

A lot was said on the day — and one of the most defining contributions came from NAAMSA President, Mr. Billy Tom, who contextualised the global shifts confronting South Africa's automotive sector. Reflecting on the “Liberation Day” and Section 232 tariffs imposed by the United States, he cautioned that the privileges of global trade can no longer be taken for granted.

“For decades, our industry has relied on AGOA to provide duty-free access to US markets, an arrangement that not only underpinned export growth but also supported thousands of South African jobs. That foundation has now been shaken,” he noted.



He further highlighted the need for policy coherence, intra-African trade, and regional integration under the AfCFTA, arguing that the sector's survival depends on its ability to balance global partnerships with domestic self-reliance.

"This conversation is not only about numbers or tariffs," he added. "It is about sovereignty, resilience, and the ability of South Africa's automotive sector to withstand shocks while reimagining its place in the global trade architecture."

The Female Leadership Panel offered an equally compelling perspective, reminding delegates that leadership in uncertain times requires empathy, inclusivity, and long-term vision. Drawing from their experiences across industry, government, and enterprise development, the panelists highlighted how women leaders continue to redefine transformation in practice.

The Roundtable also drew participation from OEM CEOs and senior executives, whose insights grounded the discussion in the operational realities of the automotive value chain.

By the end of the session, one sentiment resonated clearly — the Eastern Cape is not only South Africa's automotive powerhouse of today, but also a key driver of its industrial future.

Through this high-impact dialogue, the ELIDZ once again affirmed its role as a trusted partner of thought leadership — fostering collaboration, shaping strategic direction, and driving conversations that position the province at the forefront of South Africa's automotive transformation.



DRIVING THE AUTOMOTIVE FUTURE: NAACAM SHOW 2025

The automotive sector has long been the heartbeat of the Eastern Cape's industrial landscape, and the NAACAM Show 2025 once again placed the province firmly in the national spotlight.

The ELIDZ's presence at the event was both strategic and symbolic, showcasing the zone's readiness to lead in the future of mobility. As a proud sponsor of the delegate bags, the organisation used the platform to showcase its full value proposition, including OEM-ready infrastructure, and capacity for electric vehicle manufacturing, and to demonstrate its comprehensive competitive advantages.

Visitors to the ELIDZ exhibition stand explored discussions on various opportunities, including battery production, charging infrastructure, and the province's readiness to participate in the global shift toward new energy vehicles.

More than an exhibition, this engagement served as a statement of confidence, affirming that the Eastern Cape is not only South Africa's automotive powerhouse of today, but a strong contender in the global mobility economy of tomorrow. Through foresight, collaboration, and targeted investment, the ELIDZ continues to drive transformation that links innovation to industry, and opportunity to people.

CLICK HERE
TO VIEW
GALLERY



SA AUTO WEEK 2025: DRIVING THE EASTERN CAPE'S AUTOMOTIVE FUTURE

CLICK HERE
TO VIEW
GALLERY

The Eastern Cape was buzzing with energy as SA Auto Week 2025 kicked off, bringing together government, industry, and investment partners to shape the future of South Africa's automotive sector. For three days, the province showcased why it's more than just an automotive hub—it's a place where innovation, collaboration, and growth converge.

At the Premier's Investment Breakfast, MEC Nonkubela Pieters described the Eastern Cape as South Africa's "Detroit," highlighting its SEZs and IDZs as engines of industrialisation, job creation, and trade. Industry leaders echoed her message, stressing that sustainable growth depends on strong partnerships between government and businesses, improvements to infrastructure, a more enabling regulatory environment, and support for local procurement. Bridging these gaps, they agreed, is essential to building resilience and attracting investment.

A highlight of the week was the "Developing the Southern Corridor – Unlocking Logistics for OEM Growth" panel featuring our esteemed CEO, Tembela Zweni. He shared his vision for auto-logistics as a catalyst for growth, explaining how cost-effective, reliable, and secure logistics can enhance the Eastern Cape's competitiveness, boost exports, and create jobs.

He emphasised the need to strengthen all linkages between infrastructure and production,

highlighting how integrated logistics systems, efficient transport networks, and enabling industrial infrastructure are essential to unlocking manufacturing potential and driving economic growth. He further stressed that government must be intentional and take bold decisions to position the Eastern Cape as a globally competitive industrial hub.

In an exclusive SA FM interview, Mr. Zweni spoke passionately about how ELIDZ is building resilience in the Eastern Cape economy, attracting investment, creating jobs, and supporting transformative initiatives across the province.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Parks Tau, reminded attendees that the automotive sector is a cornerstone of the economy, but warned that South Africa risks losing key export markets if it does not embrace new energy vehicles (NEVs). He emphasised the importance of policy and incentive certainty, modernised logistics and infrastructure, and strong public-private

partnerships to unlock growth. His message was clear – innovation, collaboration, and agility are essential for the sector's future.

The week concluded by celebrating leadership in the sector. DEDEAT Head of Department, Micky Mama, was honoured at the prestigious 2025 naamsa accelerator Awards, as the Value Creator of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the automotive industry. Her recognition reflects her commitment to innovation, partnership, and advancing the Eastern Cape's role in South Africa's automotive landscape.

SA Auto Week 2025 captured a simple but powerful truth – the Eastern Cape has the talent, infrastructure, and potential to lead South Africa's automotive future, but partnership is key. With ELIDZ driving innovation, government enabling growth, and industry investing in the future, the province is ready to reimagine mobility, unlock new opportunities, and create lasting impact.



DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AT GOVTECH 2025

The ELIDZ proudly carried the Eastern Cape banner at the GovTech 2025 Conference in Durban — South Africa's premier platform for digital transformation in the public sector.

Under the theme “One Data, One Citizen, One Service Delivery Journey – Digital Transformation,” the three-day gathering brought together leaders, innovators, and technology partners to explore how data-driven solutions can reshape governance and broaden economic participation.

At its exhibition stand, the ELIDZ showcased the strength of its digital infrastructure, from its advanced Data Centre and secure cloud hosting solutions to its disaster recovery and backup platforms. Delegates learned how these facilities empower investors and small enterprises while supporting public sector partners.

Through targeted digital skills training programmes, the zone is also equipping local communities to participate in the digital economy. Beyond the exhibition floor, ELIDZ delegates engaged in strategic dialogues focused on bridging the digital divide and ensuring that technological progress translates into inclusion and opportunity.

GovTech 2025 reaffirmed the ELIDZ's position as a key digital enabler in South Africa's transformation journey — demonstrating that technology, when guided by purpose, can strengthen governance, enhance competitiveness, and empower communities.



ADVANCING INNOVATION, IMPACT, AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

The ELIDZ continues to make its presence felt through a series of strategic engagements that shape the future of industry, innovation, and inclusive growth.

Through participation in high-level forums, thought leadership platforms, and targeted investment roadshows, the organisation continues to position the Eastern Cape and South Africa as competitive, forward-looking hubs of industrial development.

At the Manufacturing Indaba 2025, ELIDZ COO Ayanda Ramncwana spoke passionately on industrial diversification, highlighting how SEZs like ELIDZ are enabling sectoral expansion, technology adoption, and industrial resilience. She highlighted the importance of skills development and local enterprise support to ensure that industrial growth translates into jobs and inclusive prosperity.

ELIDZ also proudly participated in the South African SEZ Investment Attraction Roadshow and Benchmarking Visit to Turkey, with CEO Mr. Thembela Zweni representing the zone. This strategic mission, led by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic), focused on:

- Attracting global investment into South African SEZs
- Learning from Turkey's world-class SEZ model
- Strengthening international partnerships with Turkey's Ministry of Trade and Industry



ELIDZ's participation placed the Zone at the heart of international SEZ investment discussions, showcasing its potential as a catalyst for regional industrial growth, innovation, and trade. Through this engagement, ELIDZ reinforced the Eastern Cape's position as a globally connected hub for industrial development and investment.

Dr. Chris Ettmayr, Sector Manager, represented ELIDZ at Africa Unlocked 2025, presenting opportunities in renewable energy and green hydrogen. His contributions highlighted the Eastern Cape's role in Africa's energy transition, reinforcing how local initiatives can contribute to continental sustainability goals, job creation, and regional industrial competitiveness.

At the Black Management Forum Nelson Mandela Dialogue, Board Chairperson Motse Mfuleni explored empowerment through innovation and skills development, illustrating how leadership in SEZs aligns with broader socio-economic transformation objectives. Through these interventions, ELIDZ emphasizes that industrialization must be inclusive, equitable, and geared towards long-term impact.

At the event hosted by the Border-Kei Chamber of Business at Blue Lagoon Hotel, ELIDZ COO Ayanda Ramncwana shared a compelling reflection on the evolution of the ELIDZ and its role in shaping the future

of work. From infrastructure-led beginnings to a platform for innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth, ELIDZ is driving transformation by:

- Growing sectoral clusters across key industries
- Supporting innovation through its Science & Technology Park
- Aligning skills with future industry needs
- Connecting SMMEs and youth-owned businesses to global value chains
- The future demands a workforce that is:
 - Multi-skilled
 - Behaviorally strong
 - Entrepreneurial

The ELIDZ serves as a testing ground for future competitiveness, where youth, entrepreneurs, and industries co-create the jobs of tomorrow. To unlock Africa's potential:

- Government must align policy with practice, invest in human capital, and ensure inclusivity
- Business must go beyond assets and co-create the skills and competitive advantage Africa needs to lead globally

The ELIDZ envisions a future where innovation meets opportunity, and Africa leads.

Through national, continental, and global engagements, the ELIDZ continues to:

- Shape industrial policy and regional growth strategies
- Promote renewable energy, green hydrogen, and other emerging sectors
- Champion inclusive industrial development and skills empowerment
- Expand trade and investment opportunities for the Eastern Cape
- Elevate the province's voice in international forums

By consistently participating in high-level dialogues, panels, and roadshows, ELIDZ cements its reputation as a forward-thinking, globally connected SEZ, demonstrating that strategic industrial leadership transcends borders and resonates on a continental and international scale.



PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT: AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR IN FOCUS

In a strong demonstration of accountability and partnership, the ELIDZ recently hosted the Portfolio Committee on Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism as part of the Taking Legislature to the People (TLTP) programme.



The engagement put the automotive sector, a cornerstone of the Eastern Cape economy under the spotlight, allowing committee members to gain a first-hand understanding of the operations and dynamics shaping the industry.

The delegation toured RG Brose and Vehicle Delivery Services (VDS), observing the full automotive value chain from component manufacturing to vehicle delivery highlighting how the ELIDZ serves as a critical industrial engine for the province. Through these tours, committee members saw the tangible impact of the Zone's efforts in industrialisation, job creation, and skills development, all of which contribute to the Eastern Cape's economic growth and competitiveness.

During the strategic briefing, Mr. Mawethu Rune, Chairperson of the TLTP, highlighted the importance of connecting policy intent to practical outcomes, praising ELIDZ for its proactive approach in driving inclusive industrial development. He emphasised that parliamentary oversight plays a critical role in ensuring that policies translate into real economic

benefits, particularly at a time when global and regional tariff pressures threaten to disrupt trade flows and industrial competitiveness.

The ELIDZ CEO, Mr. Thembela Zweni, presented a comprehensive overview of the Zone's contribution to the provincial economy, emphasising how the ELIDZ acts as a catalyst for investment, innovation, and sustainable growth. He highlighted key enablers for future expansion, including policy alignment with industry objectives, optimised auto-logistics, resilient supply chains, and a supportive regulatory environment. These factors, he noted, are essential for mitigating risks posed by tariffs and global market shifts while ensuring that the Eastern Cape remains a competitive and attractive destination for local and foreign investors.

The engagement reaffirmed ELIDZ's commitment to transparency, accountability, and partnership—cornerstones of the Zone's approach to industrial development. By fostering strong collaboration between government, industry, and oversight bodies, the ELIDZ continues to safeguard one of the province's most critical sectors, drives economic growth, and secure long-term industrial sustainability.



EMPOWERING WOMEN: HONOURING LEGACY AND LEADERSHIP

Women's Month served as a powerful reminder that transformation and progress must include recognition, opportunity, and leadership for women across all levels of society.



The ELIDZ actively participated in a range of engagements that highlighted this commitment, demonstrating that empowering women is a sustained pillar of purpose, not a seasonal initiative.

The ELIDZ joined the Provincial Women's Day Commemoration at the University of Fort Hare, an event that celebrated women's achievements while creating space for dialogue on empowerment and inclusion. In collaboration with DEDEAT's "Services on Wheels" outreach, the Zone helped ensure that essential services reached women in rural communities, bridging gaps in access and opportunity.

At the Pan African Transformational Leadership Summit, ELIDZ representatives joined continental leaders to discuss inclusive leadership, gender equity, and the role of women in driving sustainable development. The summit also honoured Mr. Simphiwe Kondlo, former ELIDZ CEO, whose visionary leadership laid the foundation for the Zone's ongoing growth and success. His legacy continues to inspire both women and men within the organisation to pursue innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

In addition to these external engagements, ELIDZ hosted its own internal Women's Day celebration, honouring the women within the organisation. The event recognised their dedication, talent, and leadership across various operational and strategic areas. Through speeches, awards, and moments of reflection, the celebration reinforced the message that women are integral to the Zone's mission of driving industrialisation, creating employment, and contributing to the province's socio-economic growth.

Together, these engagements reflected a shared commitment to uplifting women—through access to services, recognition of achievements, and fostering leadership opportunities. The ELIDZ remains steadfast in ensuring that women's empowerment is embedded in its culture, operations, and long-term strategic vision, creating pathways for meaningful participation and lasting impact across the Eastern Cape.



A DECADE OF CLEAN AUDITS: ANCHORED IN EXCELLENCE

For the tenth consecutive year, the Auditor-General of South Africa has awarded the ELIDZ a clean audit opinion—a rare and remarkable achievement that reflects a culture of integrity, accountability, and operational excellence deeply embedded within the organisation.

This milestone is more than a number, it is a testament to the dedication, discipline, and professionalism of the ELIDZ team, who consistently uphold sound financial management, robust internal controls, and ethical governance in every aspect of their operations. Their steadfast commitment ensures that the Zone not only complies with statutory requirements but also sets a benchmark for transparency and best practices among Special Economic Zones in South Africa.

Over the past decade, ELIDZ has emerged as a critical engine of industrialisation and economic growth in the Eastern Cape. Its clean audit record strengthens investor confidence, ensuring that local and international partners can engage with the Zone knowing that their investments are managed with transparency and accountability. This achievement reinforces ELIDZ's reputation as a trusted steward of public resources, a distinction that carries immense weight in building sustainable economic partnerships.

A clean audit is also a reflection of the Zone's strategic approach to governance and operational efficiency. It demonstrates that ELIDZ's leadership and staff not only manage resources responsibly but also focus on delivering tangible socio-economic benefits, stimulating local industry, and contributing to the province's GDP. In an era where investors and stakeholders demand transparency and accountability, ELIDZ stands out as a beacon of good governance and ethical stewardship.

Beyond compliance, this decade-long streak of clean audits is a symbol of organisational culture. It underscores ELIDZ's commitment to embedding integrity, performance excellence, and accountability into the fabric of daily operations. It is this culture that drives confidence in the Zone's leadership, motivates its workforce, and inspires public trust, enabling the ELIDZ to continue delivering impactful outcomes for the Eastern Cape economy.

As the Zone looks to the future, this milestone provides a strong foundation for sustained growth, innovation, and investment. By consistently upholding the highest standards of governance, ELIDZ ensures that it remains not only a powerful driver of industrial development but also a model of transparency and excellence for Special Economic Zones across the continent.

CSI IN ACTION: COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT

The ELIDZ continues to demonstrate that industrial growth and community development go hand in hand.

Beyond its role as a catalyst for economic transformation and investment, the Zone remains deeply committed to the well-being of the communities that surround it, ensuring that inclusive growth benefits everyone.

In Ward 46, Greenfields, Women's Month was celebrated in a meaningful way through the donation of food parcels to 100 women-headed households. The handover, held at the Robbie De Lange Hall, was more than a distribution of essentials—it was a vibrant gathering marked by gratitude, song, and community spirit. Families came together to celebrate dignity, resilience, and the power of support, with ELIDZ staff engaging directly with beneficiaries, reinforcing a shared commitment to uplifting women as leaders and caregivers in their communities.

Meanwhile, in Fort Beaufort, the Zone commemorated Mandela Month with a focus on care and compassion at the Sivenathi Special Care Home. The donation of mattresses, blankets, groceries, and essential appliances provided much-needed comfort to children with special needs while offering recognition and support to their devoted caregivers. The initiative emphasized the belief that community upliftment is as vital as industrial development, reflecting ELIDZ's holistic approach to progress.

These interventions are part of the Zone's ongoing corporate social investment efforts, which prioritises education, health, and socio-economic support. They demonstrate that the ELIDZ sees its success not just in the number of factories built or jobs created, but in the positive impact on lives, families, and communities. By addressing both immediate needs and long-term development goals, the Zone strengthens the social fabric of the Eastern Cape, building resilient, empowered communities that can thrive alongside industrial growth.

At its core, ELIDZ's CSI work reflects an enduring principle: industrial growth achieves its highest purpose when it uplifts people, strengthens communities, and inspires hope for a better future. Through initiatives like those in Greenfields and Fort Beaufort, the Zone continues to ensure that the benefits of progress are felt by those who need it most, creating a legacy of compassion, empowerment, and shared prosperity.



INNOVATION IN MOTION: EMPOWERING EASTERN CAPE INNOVATORS AND FUTURE-READY SKILLS

The ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP) continues to be the beating heart of innovation in the Eastern Cape, where research, enterprise, and opportunity intersect to drive inclusive economic growth.

By fostering strategic collaborations with government, academia, and industry, the STP ensures that innovation is not just theoretical but translates into tangible, real-world impact. From youth and SMMEs to established entrepreneurs, the STP equips innovators with the tools, mentorship, and platforms to actively participate in shaping the province's economic future.

Oceans Matter Workshop: Charting the Oceans Economy

In partnership with the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI), the STP hosted the "Oceans Matter" Workshop, a four-day immersive programme designed to introduce youth and SMMEs to the vast opportunities within the ocean's economy. Participants engaged with industry experts, practitioners, and innovators, exploring both theoretical and practical aspects of maritime innovation.

Through hands-on demonstrations, interactive sessions, and mentorship, attendees gained invaluable insights into how innovative ideas can create sustainable livelihoods, promote environmental stewardship, and contribute to economic growth in the maritime sector. This initiative demonstrates ELIDZ's commitment to broadening the scope of innovation, ensuring that emerging sectors like the oceans economy are accessible to youth and small enterprises alike.

Eastern Cape Innovation Challenge 2025 – Turning Ideas into Impact

The Eastern Cape Innovation Challenge 2025, launched in partnership with Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and supported by the UNDP, invites innovators to present technology-driven solutions addressing the province's pressing socio-economic challenges.

The Challenge emphasizes sector diversity, including:

- Agriculture & Aquaculture
- Automotive
- ICT & Electronics
- Renewable Energy
- Manufacturing

Participants stand to win up to R100,000 per sector, receive mentorship, prototyping support, and guidance on intellectual property, and gain access to networks and training programmes that enhance their ability to translate ideas into scalable, sustainable solutions.

Due to overwhelming interest, the closing date has been extended to 17 October 2025, allowing even more young innovators, entrepreneurs, and creative thinkers to seize this opportunity to shape the Eastern Cape's innovation landscape.

Digital Skills Development in Maletswai

Continuing its mandate to prepare youth for the future of work, the STP, in partnership with Walter Sisulu Municipality and Ikhala TVET College, hosted a Gaming Development & Animation and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) & Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing) training workshop in Maletswai (formerly Aliwal North).

This initiative targeted unemployed youth, students, and SMMEs, equipping them with highly relevant digital skills that enhance employability and entrepreneurial potential. Participants who successfully complete the programme receive certificates, formalizing their competencies and enabling them to enter technology-driven industries with confidence.

The workshop highlighted future-ready skills development, bridging the gap between education, industry needs, and emerging sectors, ensuring that participants can actively contribute to innovation-led economic growth across the Eastern Cape.



Certified Online Training Courses – Learning Anytime, Anywhere

To complement hands-on workshops, the ELIDZ-STP, as a CISCO Network Academy partner, is offering free, self-paced online courses to participants from across the Eastern Cape. These courses are designed to build critical digital skills that are highly sought after in the 21st-century economy.

The courses include:

- Digital Awareness: [> Apply here](#)
- Introduction to Cybersecurity: [> Apply here](#)
- Introduction to Modern AI: [> Apply here](#)
- Introduction to Data Science: [> Apply here](#)

Participants can complete these courses from the comfort of their homes or, if needed, access computers and internet facilities at the ELIDZ-STP. Successful completion, including passing exams and assignments, results in CISCO certification, a globally recognized credential that enhances employability, entrepreneurship, and participation in the digital economy.

Impact and Growth

The combined efforts of workshops, online courses, and innovation challenges illustrate the STP's multi-faceted approach to driving inclusive growth:

- Thousands trained in practical and digital skills

- Hundreds of entrepreneurs supported with mentorship and prototyping
- Dozens of prototypes developed for real-world application
- Increased participation of youth and SMMEs in emerging sectors
- Bridging the gap between education, industry, and technology

Through these initiatives, the STP ensures that the Eastern Cape remains a hub of technological advancement, innovation, and inclusive economic development.

By offering both hands-on workshops and flexible online learning, the STP empowers innovators to turn ideas into scalable solutions, fostering a culture of creativity, resilience, and forward-looking enterprise.



Eastern Cape INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2025

Call for Applications

Are you an Eastern Cape innovator with a solution for one of the Eastern Cape Province's pressing challenges in the areas of **Agriculture (Agro-processing and Aquaculture), Automotive, ICT and Electronics, Renewable Energy and Manufacturing**?

Win: Up to **R100,000 per sector** to boost your **idea towards commercialisation!**

Deadline: 17 October 2025

For more info, contact:

Lwandile Mcingana:
lwandilem@elidz.co.za

Basanda Pongoma:
pongob@unisa.ac.za

**SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO ENTER:**



www.elidzstp.co.za



EASTERN CAPE: A CALL FOR COMMUNITY-CENTRED CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The recent devastating storm that struck the Eastern Cape, particularly around Mthatha, claimed nearly 90 lives and severely damaged infrastructure. This tragedy underscores the province's growing exposure to climate-related risks and highlights the urgent need to strengthen our collective preparedness for extreme weather events.

South Africa benefits from world-class forecasting capabilities through the South African Weather Service. However, a critical challenge remains; ensuring that this valuable information translates into timely, effective action at the community level. Bridging this gap is essential to building climate-resilient communities in the Eastern Cape, and it begins with data.

Communities across the Eastern Cape are often the first to experience the impacts of extreme weather, yet many remain underprepared. This is not due to a lack of will, but often due to communication barriers, limited resources, and a lack of accessible, actionable information. In rural municipalities, these challenges are often compounded by infrastructure constraints.

A key issue is the limited availability of consistent, ground-level weather data. Accurate forecasting depends on real-time, localised data, yet many parts of the Eastern Cape lack sufficient weather monitoring infrastructure. This is where regional data centres, such as the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Data Centre, can play a transformative role as a vehicle for aggregating and analysing localised data to support early warning systems and disaster response planning.

To address this challenge of climate change and its associated consequences, the Eastern Cape can benefit from a more community-centred weather information ecosystem. Empowering citizens to participate in weather observation and climate education can enhance both data quality and public awareness.

Mobile network coverage and smartphone usage are increasingly widespread, even in rural areas. This presents an opportunity to integrate traditional knowledge—such as interpreting wind patterns and cloud formations—with modern forecasting tools. Schools, in particular, can serve as vital hubs for this initiative. By equipping them with basic weather labs and distributing tools like rain gauges to households, these initiatives can help foster a culture of climate awareness and grassroots participation. The ELIDZ Data Centre can serve

as a central repository for this citizen-generated data, enabling real-time analysis and feedback loops that empower communities to act swiftly and confidently in the face of climate threats.

For community engagement to be effective, digital inclusion must be prioritised. Expanding mobile and internet connectivity in underserved areas of the Eastern Cape is not only a development imperative, but also a climate change adaptation strategy.

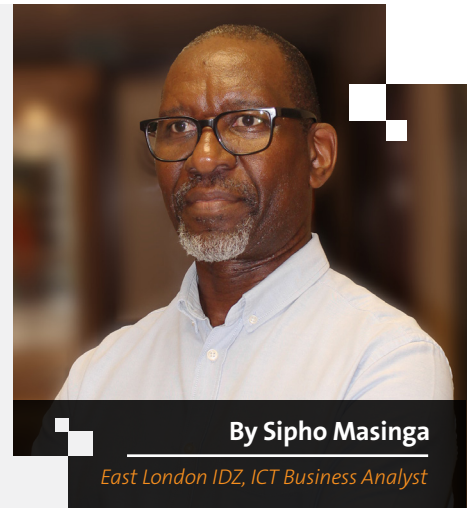
Improved connectivity enables real-time alerts, community reporting, and access to educational content on weather patterns and risks. Informed and connected communities are more likely to take proactive measures when faced with imminent threats.

The ELIDZ Data Centre, with its advanced digital infrastructure, is well-positioned to support this connectivity drive. By acting as a regional digital backbone, it can facilitate the flow of climate information between national systems and local communities, ensuring inclusivity for all in the Eastern Cape.

While there have been calls to decentralise weather forecasting, it is important to recognise that this is a highly technical and resource-intensive function. Rather than full devolution, a more effective approach is regional empowerment within a unified national system.

The South African Weather Service should remain the central authority but can enhance its impact by establishing regional collaboration hubs hosted at universities, science centres, or innovation zones. These hubs can work closely with municipalities, schools, and civil society to ensure that forecasting and outreach efforts are locally relevant while maintaining scientific integrity and national coordination.

The private sector also has a valuable role to play. International examples, such as IBM's Weather Company, demonstrate how commercial innovation can enhance weather data collection and dissemination. In the Eastern Cape, partnerships and incentives can



By Sipho Masinga

East London IDZ, ICT Business Analyst

be explored to support community-based data initiatives, particularly in areas with limited public resources.

The ELIDZ Data Centre offers a platform for such collaboration. It provides secure, scalable infrastructure where public and private stakeholders can co-develop solutions, pilot technologies, and share insights that benefit the broader region.

Reliable, accessible climate data is essential for informed decision-making. The ELIDZ has established a state-of-the-art data centre tailored to the province's needs. This facility is more than a storage site. It is a strategic enabler of climate resilience.

By hosting regional weather and climate data, the data centre would support proactive planning, disaster mitigation, and long-term adaptation strategies. It would also provide a secure environment for researchers, policymakers, and emergency services to access and analyse data in real time, enhancing coordination and response across the Eastern Cape.

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat. It is a present reality, especially for vulnerable communities in the Eastern Cape. To protect our people, we must go beyond technical forecasting and invest in inclusive, community-driven climate resilience.

By strengthening infrastructure, recognising indigenous knowledge, fostering public participation, and building regional capacity within a national framework, South Africa can transform vulnerability into resilience. The ELIDZ Data Centre stands as a beacon of this transformation, demonstrating how digital innovation can support environmental stewardship and community empowerment in the province.

Together, we can build a climate-smart society that turns tragedy into transformation.



east london idz
business streamlined

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.

ELIDZ Conference Centre: Zone 1A, Lower Chester Road, Sunnyridge, East London
Co-ordinates: **33°03'23.4"S, 27°50'57.1"E**

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
& Elevate Your
Event Experience!**

Call us: +27 43 702 8200 / 49
Email: elidzconference@elidz.co.za
www.elidz.co.za

SECURED ONSITE
PARKING
& FREE WI-FI

 TAILOR-MADE
**CATERING
SERVICES**

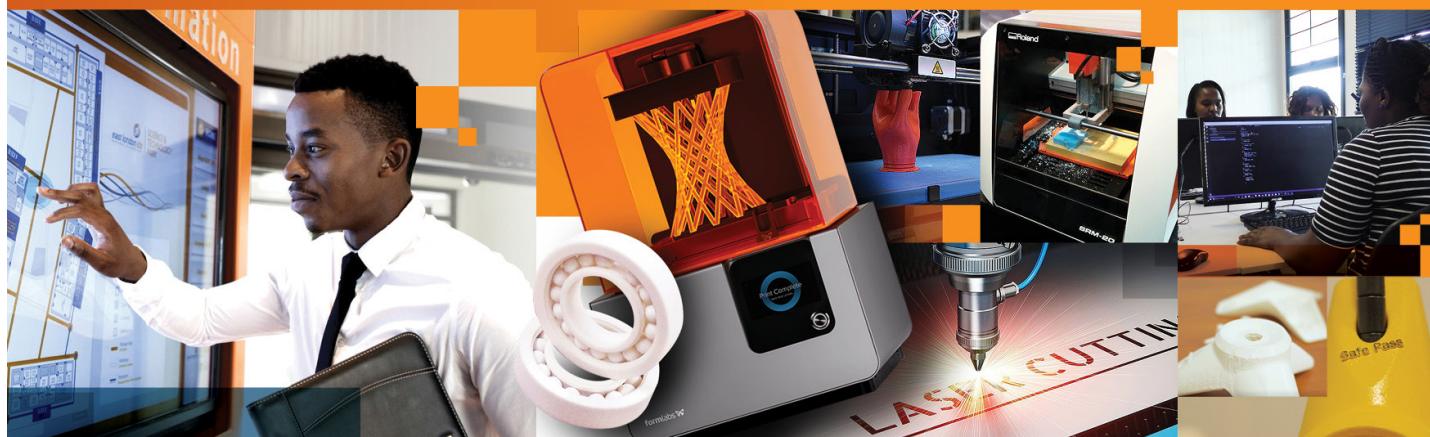
STATE-OF-THE-ART
EQUIPMENT
2 ONLY  FROM
KM AIRPORT

VERSATILE EVENT SPACES
ACCOMMODATING UP TO
230 GUESTS
WITH UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY



NURTURING INNOVATION

WITH CUTTING-EDGE PROTOTYPING TOOLS - *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 welcomes 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 for those seeking cutting-edge resources to bring their ideas to life. With state-of-the-art facilities, we offer services ranging from training and skills development to product and prototype development, serving as your gateway to innovation.

We are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of innovators by providing cutting-edge rapid prototyping tools. *Together, we are laying the foundation and 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: 043 702 8248 / 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

Our thriving Design Centre boasts the following facilities:

Computer Numerical Control Lathe Machine (Haas St 10)

- ✓ Shape or reduce a round steel bar or a shaft
- ✓ Drill a hole in a shaft/bar to a specific measurement
- ✓ Work with round shapes & threads

Laser Engraver & Cutting Machine (Speed 100)

- ✓ Engrave on steel, perspex, cardboard, wood, paper, glass, plastics, leather, aluminium
- ✓ Cut perspex, paper, cardboard, wood, leather into any shape

3D printers

- ✓ Ultimate Maker 1 & Ultimate Maker 3 extended
- ✓ Zotrex
- ✓ Up mini.



www.elidzstp.co.za

COMPREHENSIVE ANALYTICAL SERVICES FOR A CLEANER, SAFER EASTERN CAPE

ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP) – Consulting & Analytical Services (CAS) Laboratory



The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Consulting and Analytical Services (CAS) Laboratory, accredited by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), is a premier facility located within the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP).

Purpose-built to support the evolving needs of the Eastern Cape Province, the laboratory is equipped with cutting-edge technology and staffed by a multidisciplinary team of highly qualified chemists, biochemists, microbiologists, and environmental scientists. This expert team brings together years of experience and scientific accuracy to deliver reliable, high-precision analytical services that support public health, environmental sustainability, and industrial compliance.

Our laboratory plays a pivotal role in supporting national and regional development goals, contributing to initiatives such as the Blue Drop, Green Drop, and Blue Flag Programmes, while ensuring strict adherence to SANS 241 standards for water quality and safety. Through our integrated approach, we empower industries, municipalities, and communities to make informed decisions based on accurate scientific data.

OUR CORE SERVICES:

- **Potable water testing:** Testing of tap water, bottled water, and treated surface or groundwater to confirm suitability for human consumption.
- **Wastewater testing:** Testing wastewater and its compliance with environmental standards.
- **Surface water analysis:** Analysis of water from rivers, lakes, dams, and pools to assess its quality and potential contaminants.
- **Groundwater /Borehole water analysis:** Evaluation of water from boreholes, wells, and spring sources to verify its safety for human consumption.
- **Industrial effluent:** We are conducting analysis to ensure industrial effluent is following environmental standards.
- **Microbiological Analysis:** We perform microbial testing to detect the presence of microorganisms in water and food samples.
- **Microbiological Food Analysis:** In-depth testing of raw, cooked, frozen, and processed meats; dairy products; seafood; fruits; and vegetables. We assess microbial contamination and safety for human consumption.



If you are looking for a reliable, state-of-the-art, SANAS accredited CAS Laboratory, contact our Lab specialists today!

Ludwe Macingwane - **T:** 043 702 8248 / **E:** Ludwe@elidz.co.za
Khayakazi Nonkonyana - **T:** 043 702 8209 / **E:** Khayakazi@elidz.co.za
Nomfundo Krakra - **T:** 043 101 0750 / **E:** Nomfundo@elidz.co.za

www.elidzstp.co.za



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 Digital Economy 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 digital niches.

Leading the way in digital transformation, the ELIDZ Digital Economy Sector continues to innovate, offering compelling services for businesses 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 tech-savvy professionals, this industrial development zone is ready to drive innovation and meet the industry's ever-evolving demands.

Our Digital Economy offering is as follows:



Infrastructure Solutions: *Optimising your digital 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 tech-savvy specialists and managed services, you can focus on your core business while we take care of your digital needs.*

We also offer the following ICT services:

• Cloud Services

• Fibre Connectivity

• Data Centre Colocation

• Telephony & Internet Services

Strategically positioned on key trade routes, ELIDZ provides exceptional advantages to tech companies with its proximity to major trade markets. Accessibility to transportation hubs such as 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 and tailored support, making it an attractive choice for companies seeking to establish themselves in the zone. Furthermore, efficient regulatory processes and support services enhance the ease of doing business.

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

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

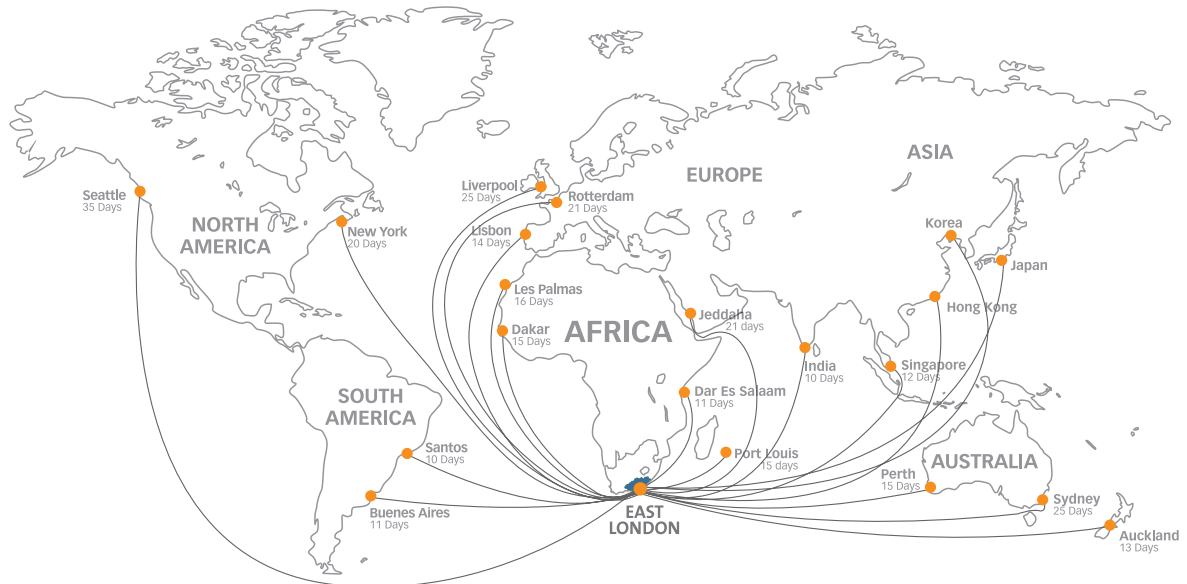
T: +27 (0) 43 702 8200 | E: ictsales@elidz.co.za | www.elidz.co.za


east london idz
business streamlined



ACCESSING **GLOBAL MARKETS**

SHIPPING ROUTES FROM EAST LONDON



Lower Chester Road,
Sunnyridge,
East London, 5201
Republic of South Africa

T: +27 (0)43 702 8200
F: +27 (0)43 702 8251
E: info@elidz.co.za
www.elidz.co.za