

ZONEBEAT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE *east london idz*



IN THIS EDITION...

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>PAGE</p> <p>2.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>7.</p> <p>8.</p> <p>10.</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11.</p> | <p>PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT VISIT: PROGRESS, IMPACT & THE EVOLUTION OF THE ZONE</p> <p>ELIDZ EXPANDS DIGITAL & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SKILLS ACROSS THE EASTERN CAPE</p> <p>REGIONAL WATER STEWARDSHIP: MULTI STAKEHOLDER ACTION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE</p> <p>CLIENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION: CREATING PLATFORMS FOR INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE GROWTH</p> <p>AFRICA ENERGY INDABA 2026: SHAPING AFRICA'S ENERGY FUTURE</p> <p>CSI IN ACTION: DIGNITY AND INCLUSION ACROSS THE EASTERN CAPE</p> <p>LEARNING FOR SAFETY, PREPARING FOR WORK</p> <p>PEERS AROUND THE WORLD: WHERE INNOVATION MEETS LOCAL INDUSTRY</p> | <p>14.</p> <p>16.</p> <p>17.</p> <p>18.</p> <p>19.</p> | <p>DIGITISATION IS NECESSARY BUT INCLUSION MUST MOVE AT THE SAME PACE</p> <p>CONSULTING & ANALYTICAL SERVICES LABORATORY YOUR PARTNER FOR A CLEANER, SAFER EC</p> <p>ELIDZ STP DESIGN CENTRE YOUR HUB FOR INNOVATION & PROTOTYPING</p> <p>WHERE INNOVATION MEETS OPPORTUNITIES TAILORED FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY & GROWTH</p> <p>HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE ELIDZ CONFERENCE CENTRE: A STATE-OF-THE-ART CONFERCING FACILITY FOR EVERY OCCASION</p> |
|---|---|---|---|



east london idz
business streamlined



PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT VISIT: PROGRESS, IMPACT & THE EVOLUTION OF THE ZONE



On 19 March 2026, the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) hosted the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition for an oversight visit focused on progress, impact, and the continued evolution of the Zone as part of South Africa's industrial development landscape.

The engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on how the ELIDZ has developed over time, the work currently taking place on the ground, and the role the Zone continues to play in supporting industrialisation, investment attraction, and job creation in the Eastern Cape.

Discussions reflected on the ELIDZ's evolution from being historically automotive led to a more diversified industrial platform. While automotive remains a key pillar of the Zone's industrial base, deliberate steps have been taken to broaden the investor profile, reduce sector concentration risk, and strengthen long term resilience in a changing global operating environment.

Currently, the ELIDZ hosts 40 operational investors, with 50% operating outside the automotive sector across agri industry, advanced manufacturing, logistics, sustainable energy, and the digital economy. Collectively, these investments represent approximately R5.8 billion in operational investment and support over 4 200 active jobs, including 2 819 direct jobs in the automotive sector, reinforcing the ELIDZ's role as a significant socio economic contributor to the Eastern Cape region.

The Portfolio Committee was also briefed on the ELIDZ's position within the national Special Economic Zone (SEZ) programme, where the Zone is recognised as one of the SEZs accelerating growth, based on actual occupancy levels, investment commitments, and operational performance. Within the national context, the ELIDZ remains one of the top contributors to SEZ outcomes, accounting for 40 operational

investors, R5.8 billion in private sector investment, and over 4 200 active jobs.

Local participation featured strongly throughout the engagements. Domestic investors account for more than 40% of operational companies in the Zone, operating alongside foreign direct investors. This balance between domestic and foreign investment reflects growing confidence from South African businesses and contributes to the development of local industrial capability, supplier depth, and participation in regional value chains.

As part of the programme, Members of the Portfolio Committee undertook site visits to Ebor and voestalpine, providing direct insight into original equipment manufacturing operations within the Zone. The visits highlighted the scale and sophistication of manufacturing activity, as well as the importance of infrastructure quality, operational stability, and skills development in sustaining industrial performance, particularly within the automotive value chain.

The Committee also toured the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park (STP), which remains the only STP within a South African Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Members visited key facilities, including the Consulting and Analytical Services (CAS) Laboratory, Renewable Energy Centre, Cisco Digital Hub (EDGE Centre), Design Centre and Digital Hub.

The STP plays a central role in extending the ELIDZ's impact beyond traditional manufacturing by providing applied research, technology development, skills training and enterprise support aligned to the Zone's priority sectors. Services delivered through the STP include incubation and entrepreneurship support, prototype development and commercialisation, sector specific innovation platforms, intellectual property support, and industry linked skills development programmes.

Through these platforms, the ELIDZ has supported over 500 entrepreneurs, trained more than 3 000 individuals across a range of technical, digital, and emerging skills, including advanced manufacturing, digital technologies, renewable energy, and electric mobility, and facilitated the development of over 25 prototypes aimed at commercialisation. These



interventions strengthen local capability, support enterprise entry into industrial value chains, and contribute to the development of future focused skills aligned to industry demand.

Importantly, the Portfolio Committee engaged directly with ELIDZ beneficiaries during the visit, including Style E Mobility, a recipient of the ELIDZ Prototype Development Programme implemented through the STP. The engagement provided practical insight into how targeted support for innovation and local manufacturing is translating into enterprise development, new industrial capability, and tangible outcomes on the ground.

The Committee was further briefed on the role of public investment in enabling these outcomes. Since designation, the ELIDZ has received approximately R2.39 billion in DTIC funding, directed towards bulk infrastructure, top structures, and enabling services required to attract, service, and retain industrial investors. This investment has supported the development of a fully serviced industrial platform capable of supporting both established manufacturing operations and emerging sectors.

Across the engagements, discussions emphasised the importance of aligning investment, infrastructure, innovation, and skills development to support sustainable industrial growth and local participation. The visit also created space to engage on how continued public investment and coordination across government can further strengthen infrastructure development and support job creation in the province.

During the engagement, the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Mzwandile Masina, commended the work being done at the ELIDZ, stating:

“As the Committee, we commend the East London IDZ for the progress we have seen. The work taking place here reflects passion,

commitment, and a clear can do attitude. It shows how sustained public investment, sound governance, and focused implementation can turn plans into delivery and long standing aspirations into real economic outcomes for the Eastern Cape.”

Members of the Portfolio Committee further commended the ELIDZ for the progress made in building a more resilient, diversified, and future focused industrial base for the Eastern Cape. The oversight visit reaffirmed the value of long term planning, strong governance and consistent implementation, with the DTIC briefing noting the ELIDZ’s achievement of 10 consecutive clean audit outcomes as a key indicator of institutional credibility and delivery capability.

The Acting Chairperson of the ELIDZ Board reflected on the progress demonstrated during the visit:

“What we have seen here is what passion, commitment, and a clear ‘can do’ attitude can achieve. When people believe in the work, take ownership of it, and remain focused on delivery, it becomes possible to turn long held dreams into real, tangible outcomes. This is how vision is translated into meaningful impact for our region.”

The oversight visit affirmed the East London IDZ’s continued progress as a credible, delivering and evolving industrial platform. Through sustained public investment, strong governance, growing local participation, and an integrated approach to infrastructure, innovation, and skills development, the ELIDZ continues to translate industrial policy into practical outcomes on the ground. As the Zone builds on this foundation, the focus remains on strengthening resilience, expanding opportunity, and ensuring that industrial growth delivers lasting value for the Eastern Cape and the country as a whole.

ELIDZ EXPANDS DIGITAL & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SKILLS ACROSS THE EASTERN CAPE

The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), through its Science and Technology Park (STP), continues to advance digital innovation and advanced manufacturing skills development across the Eastern Cape Province through a series of targeted training programmes and industry partnerships.

These initiatives form part of ELIDZ's ongoing commitment to strengthening digital capabilities, fostering innovation, and building technical competencies among unemployed youth, students, and emerging entrepreneurs throughout the province. The programmes focus on high-demand areas such as Computer Aided Design (CAD), Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing), Game Development and Animation, digital technologies, and related innovation-driven disciplines.

Through practical, hands-on training workshops delivered in partnership with key stakeholders, including technology partners and training institutions, ELIDZ STP is equipping participants with industry-relevant skills that enhance employability, support entrepreneurship, and enable meaningful participation in the digital economy.

Interest in these programmes continues to grow, reflecting the increasing demand for future-oriented skills in the province. Participation in each training intervention is carefully structured to ensure quality learning outcomes, practical engagement, and meaningful skills transfer. Participants who complete the various programmes receive certificates of participation, further strengthening their professional profiles.

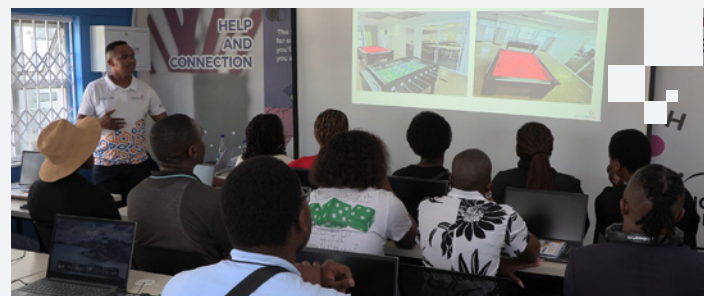
ELIDZ remains committed to positioning itself as a key enabler of inclusive economic growth and socio-economic transformation. By leveraging innovation, technology, and strategic partnerships, the organisation continues to unlock opportunities for communities across both urban and rural areas of the Eastern Cape.

These skills development initiatives align with ELIDZ's Vision 2030, which prioritises innovation-led growth, industrial competitiveness, and community empowerment. Through its

Science and Technology Park, ELIDZ delivers a comprehensive range of programmes across the province, including digital skills training, business incubation, technical capacity building, youth and SMME development initiatives, and community-focused innovation programmes.

In addition, ELIDZ STP, as a CISCO Networking Academy Partner, offers free, self-paced online training programmes in areas such as cybersecurity, programming, networking, and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). These online learning opportunities are accessible to young people throughout the Eastern Cape, with further information regularly shared via ELIDZ's official communication platforms.

Through sustained investment in digital and innovation-focused skills development, ELIDZ continues to contribute to building a capable, competitive, and future-ready Eastern Cape economy.





COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (CAD) & ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING (3D Printing)

TARGET: Unemployed youth
DATE: 03 - 05 February 2026
TIME: 9am - 3pm daily
VENUE: Liquid Intelligent Learning Centre
 Metropolitan Place Building,
 Office 2f11, 2nd Floor, 49 Leeds road, Mthatha

APPLY HERE TO PARTICIPATE
 Closing date for applications: 29 January 2026 (12pm)

- Certificate of participation issued upon completion
- Interested people can apply to participate as seats are limited
- Only selected applicants will be invited to attend.

LIQUID INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES



TRAINING WORKSHOP



GAME DEVELOPMENT & ANIMATION

TARGET: Unemployed youth
DATE: 03 - 05 February 2026
TIME: 9am - 3pm daily
VENUE: Liquid Intelligent Learning Centre
 Metropolitan Place Building, Office 2f11, 2nd Floor
 49 Leeds road, Mthatha

APPLY HERE TO PARTICIPATE
 Closing date for application: 29 January 2026 (12pm)

SEATS ARE LIMITED

- Certificate of participation issued upon completion
- Interested people can apply to participate as seats are limited
- Only selected applicants will be invited to attend.

LIQUID INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES

REGIONAL WATER STEWARDSHIP: MULTI STAKEHOLDER ACTION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The NatuReS II Regional Learning Exchange 2026, hosted at the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), brought together delegates from South Africa, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Tanzania for three days of intensive dialogue, hands on learning, and regional collaboration focused on strengthening water stewardship in Africa's industrial regions.



Hosted from 24–26 February 2026 by the ELIDZ in partnership with the GIZ Natural Resources Stewardship Programme II (NatuReS II), the gathering brought together delegates from South Africa, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Tanzania, uniting government leaders, private sector representatives, water managers, academia, civil society, and development partners under one shared mission.

From the outset, the event centered on the theme “From Source to Industry: Stewardship Multi Stakeholder Partnerships for Socio Ecological Transformation and Water Smart Industrial Futures.” This theme shaped the flow of discussions, grounding every conversation in the reality of a changing climate, increasing water risks and the urgent need for collective, systems level approaches to sustainable industrial development.

“This theme is not aspirational for us — it reflects who we are today and the future we are deliberately building. It speaks to our long standing commitment to environmentally responsible industrialisation and our intentional transition toward a water smart, eco industrial model grounded in science, governance and partnership,” said Ayanda Ramncwana, Chief Operations Officer of the ELIDZ.

She noted that operating in a water stressed province demands responsibility, foresight, and discipline, which is why the ELIDZ embeds environmental governance, monitoring systems, green building principles and risk based management into its operations. *“At the centre of this transition is water, because our priority sectors are water-dependent, and secure, well-governed water systems are now fundamental to competitiveness, investor confidence and long-term resilience.”*

A major thread running through the exchange was the recognition that industries can no longer depend on a single, traditional water

source. Speakers and technical experts repeatedly highlighted the need for decreasing water risk, especially as climate variability intensifies. A task which cannot be tackled successfully by one sector alone, but rather requires collaborative action, including a wide range of stakeholders, including the public and private sector and civil society. Delegates explored a range of alternative water sourcing methods, examining how each contributes to building long term operational stability and resilience.

Rainwater harvesting featured strongly in the discussions, not as an idea but as a practical, underused solution with immense potential. Several speakers emphasised how harvesting rainwater can reduce pressure on municipal systems, offer an emergency buffer during shortages, and help industries lower their operational and environmental footprint.

The discussions around rainwater collection illustrated how even simple interventions can significantly strengthen resilience when built into a broader diversified approach.

The ELIDZ's own Sea Water Pump Station emerged as a compelling real-world case study of an alternative source in action. Delegates had the opportunity to explore how seawater abstraction, supported by appropriate treatment technologies, can supplement freshwater supplies and serve process specific industrial needs. The visit demonstrated how such systems could enhance resilience in coastal industrial zones that face growing water stress, positioning seawater as a viable and increasingly necessary component of future water portfolios.

Experts also unpacked the role of groundwater supplementation and Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) as part of a holistic water strategy. These insights underscored the importance of responsible governance, careful monitoring and strong

catchment level collaboration to ensure groundwater use is both safe and sustainable. Complementing this, several case studies illustrated how treated wastewater can be effectively reused in industrial processes, reducing dependency on potable water and advancing the shift toward circular resource management.

Across all sessions, one message was clear: integrated multi source water planning is no longer optional. Delegates echoed the need for industrial zones to adopt diversified portfolios combining municipal supply, rainwater harvesting, groundwater use, seawater sourcing and wastewater reuse — a strategic safeguard in a climate stressed future.

Reflecting on these insights, Sarah Beerhalter, Head of Programme for GIZ–NatuReS, noted that the discussions and technical visits demonstrated the value of integrated, multi source planning and evidence based decision making. She added that broader water stewardship supported by strong partnerships and scientific insight is essential for building resilient, water smart industrial regions capable of withstanding climate pressures and supporting sustainable growth.

The knowledge-rich panel discussions served as the backbone of the exchange, offering regional insights into policy, governance and economic imperatives. Conversations on water resilience and industrial competitiveness demonstrated how water insecurity can disrupt supply chains, undermine export reliability and weaken investor confidence. Experts highlighted the importance of building redundancy through multiple water sources and by applying water efficiency measures, emphasising that coordinated catchment level action is now essential for safeguarding the continent’s industrial output.

Industry representatives participating in the business case dialogue shared how stewardship partnerships are helping them de risk operations, comply with water efficiency and reuse regulations, and strengthen ESG performance—factors that increasingly influence global investor decisions.

Meanwhile, delegates from Ethiopia, Zambia and Tanzania provided reflective insights into the governance mechanisms needed for effective multi-stakeholder collaboration, underscoring the importance of trust, transparency and locally appropriate partnership models.

From a national perspective, Thami Klaasen, Director for Regional Industrial Development at the dtic, said the exchange directly supports South Africa’s work on strengthening water stewardship in industrial parks and SEZs. He noted that the dtic, together with GIZ, is developing standard operating procedures grounded in accurate data and research, supported through pilots at the ELIDZ, Richards Bay SEZ and parks like Rosslyn. Klaasen stressed that multi stakeholder engagement is central to identifying risks and co creating solutions and emphasised that decisions on alternative water sources must be informed by scientific evidence rather than assumptions.

The technical tours added an invaluable practical dimension to the exchange. Delegates visited the Science and Technology Park

(STP) CAS Laboratory, the ELIDZ Seawater Pump Station and the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) Wastewater Treatment Plant. These three sites together reflect long-term commitment to a Net Zero Water future.

These visits showed how industrial zones and municipalities can integrate multiple water sources, apply scientific monitoring and build water systems that extend beyond traditional boundaries. The tours illustrated how the Zone is transitioning from conventional water management to broader water stewardship—where risks are understood and addressed both within the zone and across the surrounding catchment. Such stewardship partnerships not only support economic development but also focus strongly on environmental health and socially fair sharing of resources.

On the final day, discussions centered on the Natural Resources Risk and Action Framework (NRAF), a methodology that helps stakeholders and organizations to operationalize stewardship partnerships and design implementable, risk reducing strategies tailored to realities in African countries. Delegates explored how the framework enhances risk assessment, aligns interests across sectors, and supports multi-stakeholder decision making—a critical component in regions facing layered water challenges.

As the programme drew to a close, delegates reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaborative water governance and scaling multiple water source initiatives across Africa.

The ELIDZ and GIZ NatuReS renewed their pledge to continue supporting regional partners in advancing water smart and climate resilient natural resource management for a broad range of stakeholders — including industry.

The gathering ended with a shared recognition that Africa’s industrial future depends on stewardship, innovation, and a sustained commitment to resource use efficiency, circular models, and redesigned water systems for long term resilience — indicating that Stewardship Multi Stakeholder Partnerships remain a powerful model for collective action on water security across Africa and beyond.



CLIENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION: CREATING PLATFORMS FOR INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE GROWTH



The ELIDZ, through its Science and Technology Park (STP), successfully hosted a dynamic Client Engagement Session, bringing together entrepreneurs, SMMEs, and tenant clients for a day focused on strengthening business fundamentals and expanding access to the STP's innovation support offerings.

The session was delivered in a hybrid format, allowing participants to join both in person and virtually, ensuring wider reach and meaningful engagement across the province.

The engagement highlighted the ELIDZ's commitment to stakeholder support and innovation-led development, providing clients with valuable insights into available programmes, opportunities for collaboration, and the broader ecosystem designed to drive enterprise growth and sustainability. Participants were able to interact with STP teams, learn more about the Zone's innovation and enterprise development platforms, and connect with other industry players who share a vision for economic advancement in the Eastern Cape.

A standout moment of the session was the showcase of an innovative electric motorcycle developed by Mzingisi Mangqukela, founder of Style E Mobility and a beneficiary of the STP's Prototype Development Programme.

The prototype demonstrated the power of local innovation and featured:

- **A top speed of 70 km/h**
- **A lithium battery with an 8 year lifespan**
- **A 4 hour full charging time**

Mr. Mangqukela's work reflects the impact of the STP's support, showcasing how local entrepreneurs can develop forward thinking, environmentally conscious technologies that contribute to the future of transport. His achievement stands as a testament to the STP's mandate of nurturing talent, enabling prototyping, and accelerating innovative concepts toward commercial viability.

The Client Engagement Session reaffirmed the ELIDZ's commitment to building a culture of innovation, collaboration, and inclusive enterprise development. By creating platforms that connect stakeholders, strengthen knowledge sharing, and empower local innovators, the ELIDZ continues to play a pivotal role in driving socio economic growth and sustainable development across the Eastern Cape.



AFRICA ENERGY INDABA 2026: SHAPING AFRICA'S ENERGY FUTURE

The ELIDZ proudly participated in the Africa Energy Indaba 2026, held in Cape Town from 3 - 5 March, joining Africa's premier platform focused on the continent's evolving energy landscape.

This year's theme, "Africa Energy – Pathway to Prosperity (Choices for Capital, Community, Commerce and Climate)," emphasised the crucial role of sustainable energy in driving inclusive growth and industrial development across Africa.

Aligned with this focus, the ELIDZ reaffirmed its commitment to clean, innovative, and future ready energy solutions that empower communities, attract investment, and strengthen Africa's industrial base. The Indaba provided an important opportunity for the Zone to stand alongside partners working to advance energy systems that support long term development.

Together, the ELIDZ and its stakeholders continue to contribute to shaping a resilient and sustainable energy future for the continent.



CSI IN ACTION: **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND INCLUSION**

As the 2025/26 financial year comes to an end, the ELIDZ reflects on a year defined not simply by projects delivered, but by people reached, dignity restored, and futures strengthened.

Across local communities, schools, community centres, sporting fields, and university lecture halls, the Zone's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme translated strategy into meaningful action — responding to real needs while investing in long term potential.

STARTING WHERE IT MATTERS MOST: EDUCATION AND LEARNER DIGNITY

For many young learners, the school year begins with promise, but also with uncertainty. Throughout the year, ELIDZ chose to meet learners at this critical starting point.

In partnership with provincial government, the Zone became part of the Provincial Back to School programme in the Chris Hanani District, ensuring that learners returned to class with school shoes and dignity packs — not as handouts, but as tools to help them walk into the classroom with confidence. Closer to home, in Ward 46, that same philosophy guided the provision of school uniform kits to learners at Umtiza High School, Coveridge Primary School, and Sinomonde Primary

School. For families under financial strain, a uniform often means more than clothing — it means relief, inclusion, and a sense of belonging.

That story continued in the Tsholomnqa area, where, through a partnership with the Teelo Foundation, more learners received school uniforms, reinforcing the simple but powerful belief that every child deserves to feel equal when they step into a learning space.

Education support extended beyond uniforms. At Nkululeko Primary School, ELIDZ invested in the refurbishment of 12 school toilets, improving basic infrastructure that directly affects learner health, safety, and dignity, especially for young girls.

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVERS AND THE VULNERABLE

Education is one pillar of community strength — but care and protection are another.

Throughout the year, ELIDZ stood alongside organisations that quietly hold communities together every day. At the Sunnyridge Crime Prevention Centre, continued support in the form of a facility strengthened local crime prevention efforts.

At Sivenathi Special Care Home, essential household and care equipment — from gas stoves to refrigeration and hygiene essentials, helped improve the daily lives of the young people living with disabilities who depend on structured care.

In Qonce, the Unakho Victim Centre received sewing and cooking equipment, supporting not only operational needs but also skills development and pathways to self reliance for survivors of violence.

Moments of collective care were also honoured with food parcels provided to 100 women during a Ward 46 Women's Day initiative, and another 100 elderly residents supported during the festive season. These gestures, while simple, carried deep meaning: recognition, dignity, and solidarity.

OPENING DOORS THROUGH SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITY

Empowerment is not only about relief — it is about opportunity. Through a targeted training programme, 40 members of the Ward 46 Business Forum were equipped with tendering skills, unlocking access to economic participation in the construction sector.

In rural enterprise support, the Gompo Farmers Association received ploughing equipment, enabling productivity and sustainability at grassroots level.

BUILDING BELONGING THROUGH SPORT

Sport, too, became a powerful vehicle for dignity and inclusion. From football to netball, from grassroots clubs to adaptive sport, ELIDZ supported organisations that use sport to build discipline, teamwork, confidence, and community cohesion. Equipment was provided to the Young Killers Football Club, the West Bank Sports Council, and the HPC Netball Club in East London, strengthening participation, particularly for youth and women.

Perhaps most powerfully, the donation of specialised sports wheelchairs to BCM Suns, a wheelchair basketball team, reinforced the message that inclusion is not a statement — it is a practice.

LOOKING BEYOND THE PRESENT: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE THROUGH BURSARIES

While much of CSI meets today's needs, ELIDZ also invested firmly in tomorrow.

Through its Bursary Programme, 13 students from the Eastern Cape were supported in fields ranging from medicine and engineering to data science, accounting, physiotherapy, and nautical science, studying at leading universities across the country.

These bursaries represent more than financial support, they represent belief. Belief in young people, in education, and in a future skills pipeline that will one day shape industries, communities, and the economy itself.



OUR CSI APPROACH: FROM RESPONSIVE SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC IMPACT

During the year, the Zone introduced a refined CSI approach, anchored in transparency, fairness, and impact. A formal call for CSI proposals was issued, enabling community organisations and partners to apply through a structured and equitable process.

Going forward, CSI requests and project proposals will only be accepted during the annual application window, which opens each year between January and March, in preparation for the new financial year. This approach allows for better planning, strategic alignment, and the effective allocation of resources where they can achieve the greatest social return.

Applicants whose projects were shortlisted for the 2026/27 financial year will be contacted in due course. Communities and partners are encouraged to remain alert during the application window period

A YEAR DEFINED BY PURPOSE

During the 2025/26 financial year, ELIDZ implemented a total of 19 Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives, reaching 100% Black beneficiaries, while 13 bursaries remained active, supporting

academically deserving students from diverse backgrounds.

Behind every number is a story — a learner better prepared for school, a family supported, a student closer to graduation, an athlete able to compete, a community organisation strengthened.

As ELIDZ closes the 2025/26 financial year, it does so with a renewed commitment to dignity led development, guided by a more structured CSI approach that ensures transparency, sustainability, and measurable impact.

Because at its core, CSI is not about ticking boxes. *It is about showing up, listening, and building a future — together.*



LEARNING FOR SAFETY, PREPARING FOR WORK

and disposal, hygiene and infection control, as well as basic emergency response and incident reporting procedures.

Sessions were delivered through a combination of practical demonstrations and interactive discussions, allowing participants to ask questions, share experiences, and apply learning to real life work scenarios. This approach helped build confidence and reinforced an understanding of how safety and environmental responsibility form part of everyday work practices.

Throughout the two days, emphasis was placed on the importance of personal accountability, awareness, and preparedness - qualities that are essential in any working environment, particularly for individuals seeking employment for the first time.

Through initiatives such as this, ELIDZ continues to play an active role in supporting local skills development, youth empowerment, and community upliftment, demonstrating that its contribution to surrounding communities goes beyond CSI alone. By investing time, knowledge, and access, ELIDZ supports pathways toward improved employability, safer workplaces, and more sustainable communities.



Recently, ELIDZ opened its doors to local residents, including youth from Ward 46, for a two day Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Environmental and Waste Management training. The initiative formed part of ELIDZ's broader commitment to community development and work readiness, extending beyond formal CSI programmes.

For many participants, the training represented more than a short course — it was an opportunity to better understand the expectations of working environments and to develop practical knowledge that can support entry into the workplace across various sectors.

The training focused on building a solid foundation in safety awareness and responsible workplace behaviour. Participants engaged with key topics such as hazard identification, the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE), safe waste handling



PEERS AROUND THE WORLD: WHERE INNOVATION MEETS LOCAL INDUSTRY

The ELIDZ Science & Technology Park continues to gain international recognition, with its Head and International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP) African Division President, Ludwe Macingwane, recently featured in IASP's Peers Around the World series.

The feature highlights her leadership journey, the evolution of the ELIDZ STP, and the role of African science parks in shaping inclusive, globally connected innovation ecosystems. Read the full Q&A below:

You have been leading the East London IDZ Science & Technology Park for several years now. The park is often called a catalyst for industrial innovation. How has the park changed since you took on this role, and what impact has it had in supporting entrepreneurs and businesses in the area?

When I stepped into this role, the park already had solid foundations, but it was still finding its identity. Over the years, the biggest shift has been moving from being a place with buildings to becoming a place with a solid innovation system ready to take the innovation agenda forward.

Structurally, we have expanded and diversified the Park and its offering, growing beyond traditional manufacturing to include services that respond to advanced 4IR-driven enablers and creating ongoing opportunities for collaboration and cross-pollination that simply did not exist before.

But the more meaningful change has been cultural: we have deliberately positioned the STP as an enabler, not just a landlord, actively supporting entrepreneurs and creating spaces where startups, established firms, researchers, and public institutions can actually engage with one another: for entrepreneurs, the STP has become a place where ideas can move faster. We have seen small, early-stage businesses formalise, scale, and in some cases enter global value chains, without having to leave East London to do it. That is something I am particularly proud of.

Since I took over, the park has added an automotive and manufacturing incubator facility, a Digital Hub which offers a myriad of skills to the youth in the whole of Eastern Cape and support technopreneurs to develop smart city products. We have also expanded on the development of prototypes to ensure that we commercialise some of this and support the whole value chain towards manufacturing. Our Lab facilities

have evolved from a testing a facility to becoming a hive of activity, allowing opportunities for researchers to partner for industry-related projects.

The impact on the broader region has also been tangible. The STP has contributed to job creation, skills development, and supplier development, while also strengthening East London's reputation as a credible destination for industrial and technological investment. Most importantly, it has helped shift the narrative - from one of constraint and decline to one of innovation and possibility.

There is still a lot to do. But if there is one thing that has changed most since I took on this role, it is confidence.

Confidence from entrepreneurs to take risks, from partners to engage with us, and from the city and the region itself to see innovation as something that can and does happen right here and has the potential to impact positively on the livelihoods of many people.

You have led major initiatives like the Automotive & Manufacturing incubator and ICT programmes, while also securing significant funding and engaging industry leaders such as Mercedes-Benz. What were the biggest challenges in turning these concepts into reality and building these partnerships? What lessons can other science parks learn from your experience?

Bringing those initiatives to life was far less about having good ideas and far more about doing the hard, often invisible work of alignment and trust-building.

One of the biggest challenges was credibility. Companies are not moved by vision statements alone; they want to see execution capability, governance discipline, and long-term commitment. Another major challenge was alignment between very different stakeholders. Government funders, corporates, entrepreneurs, and academia all speak different "languages" and work on different time horizons. There were moments where progress slowed simply because alignment had not yet been earned.

Funding, while critical and hard, was not the hardest part. It was sequencing the funding. Infrastructure, skills development, equipment, and operational sustainability all have to come together in the right order. Get that wrong and even well-funded initiatives can stall.

From an industry-partnership perspective, the lesson was clear: partnerships are built on shared value, not goodwill.

The conversation shifted once we demonstrated how incubation could strengthen local supplier pipelines, reduce risk in enterprise development, and support long-term competitiveness. Once that link was clear, the relationship becomes strategic rather than transactional.

There are a few lessons other science and technology parks might find useful: don't start with infrastructure, start with demand; invest in people and governance as much as in physical assets; be patient but persistent, trust with industry and funders is cumulative and it's built through delivery, not announcements.

And finally, stay rooted in your local context. Our success came from understanding the realities of entrepreneurs in the Eastern Cape and connecting them deliberately to global industry standards. Science parks work best when they act as translators between the local and the global. That role, while demanding, is where the real impact lies.

The automotive industry is going through a rapid transformation with electric vehicles and green technologies. How is the East London IDZ positioning itself to support this shift, and what opportunities does it create for local innovators and suppliers?

The ELIDZ, through its STP, is strategically positioning itself to support the automotive industry's transition towards electric vehicles (EVs) and green technologies by prioritising skills development, innovation support, and local supplier development.

Through its skills Development programme, we have hosted specialised initiatives such as the Professional Certificate Workshop in Electric Vehicle Fundamentals, aimed at upskilling professionals, entrepreneurs, and technicians. By building technical capacity in these emerging areas, we are enabling the local workforce to participate meaningfully in the growing EV economy.

In addition, we support innovation through its Prototype Development Programme, which allows innovative SMMEs across various IDZ sectors, to access support for developing functional prototypes.

A notable outcome of this initiative is the development of an electric bike prototype by Mr. Mzingisi Mangqukela, founder of Style E-Mobility, and a beneficiary of the STP's prototype development support. This innovation highlights the potential of locally developed green mobility solutions and the effectiveness of the park in supporting cutting-edge automotive innovation.

Overall, ELIDZ's focus on EV-related skills development and prototype support creates significant opportunities for local innovators and suppliers to integrate into emerging green automotive value chains, develop new products, and contribute to the future of sustainable transport.

You recently launched initiatives like the Eastern Cape Innovation Challenge, which bring together partners from government, academia, and industry to collaborate on new ideas and solutions. What inspired you to create this challenge? What kinds of solutions or breakthroughs are you hoping to see emerge from this challenge in the next few years?

The ELIDZ Eastern Cape Innovation Challenge was inspired by the STP's mandate to accelerate economic development in the Eastern Cape, coupled with the growing need to support SMMEs, youth entrepreneurs, and innovators in accessing opportunities to develop technology-driven solutions to regional challenges.

The challenge formed part of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week, which served as a platform to highlight and strengthen regional innovation and entrepreneurship efforts, while also promoting the development and application of advanced technologies ensuring that innovation is translated into tangible economic impact.

Recognising that the future of entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development lies in the growth of SMMEs, youth entrepreneurs, and innovators, the STP designed a strategic programme aimed at unlocking their potential and enabling them to respond to pressing societal and economic challenges through technology-driven solutions.

From this Challenge, we are hoping to see solutions and breakthroughs that translate into sustainable business growth, job creation, and long-term economic impact for the Eastern Cape.

It is intended to stimulate economic development and industrial growth by encouraging innovators to develop market-ready, technology-driven solutions that respond to real industry and societal challenges. Through this process, STP seeks to strengthen innovation-led economic activity and support the province's broader development objectives. Furthermore, by facilitating access to infrastructure, networks, and markets, it is designed to position participating enterprises for global relevance while retaining economic value within the region.

Overall, the Innovation Challenge is expected to serve as a catalyst for building a strong pipeline of scalable, industrially relevant enterprises.

African innovation ecosystems are entering a very exciting phase, with science parks playing a key role in driving industrial growth and socio-economic progress. What is your vision for African science parks over the next decade? How can they find the right balance between attracting global investment and creating inclusive opportunities for local communities?

African innovation ecosystems are growing fast, and science parks can play an important role in shaping economic and social development.

In the next decade, their focus should not only be in hosting companies, but in supporting research, sharing knowledge, developing skills and turning ideas into useful products and services, offering opportunities for soft landing platforms in other locations through innovation ecosystems. By focusing on areas such as renewable energy, health, agriculture, digital production and the circular economy, science parks should help African countries build stronger and more diverse economies.

An important part of this vision is linking science parks closely to national and regional innovation systems. Strong connections with universities and technical training institutions can help science parks develop skilled workers and support the move from education into jobs and entrepreneurship. Working closely with local businesses and public institutions can also ensure that research and innovation respond to real social needs, such as food security, public health, climate challenges and infrastructure (needs that are prevalent on the continent). In this way, science parks can produce knowledge and technologies that are useful locally but also valuable at the global level.

Science parks should be able to find the right balance between attracting global investment and supporting local development. Foreign companies and investors can bring money, new technologies and access to global markets, but these benefits do not always reach local people. To avoid this, science parks need clear policies that connect foreign investment to local value creation.

And finally, science parks should create opportunities for local startups, small and medium-sized businesses, and groups that are often left out, especially young people and women. Shared laboratories, incubators and affordable workspaces can make it easier for local entrepreneurs to participate. Strong links between science parks and nearby communities can ensure that parks support wider development rather than benefiting only a small group.

As Regional Division President for IASP, you are in a unique position to connect Africa's innovation hubs with the global network. How does this position influence your vision for science parks in Africa, and what opportunities do you see for fostering collaboration between African innovation hubs and international peers?

Holding the IASP Regional Division President role has really sharpened my sense of both possibility and responsibility when it comes to science parks in Africa. From a vision perspective, it has reinforced the idea that African science parks should not try to replicate Silicon Valley or Europe's mature models. Our context is different—and that's a strength, not a weakness.

Many African parks sit at the intersection of industrialisation, skills development, and social impact. That gives us a unique

mandate: to be platforms that translate innovation into jobs, suppliers, and real economic participation, not just patents or startups for their own sake.

Being part of the IASP global network also gives a clear line of sight into what works elsewhere, and just as importantly, what does not travel well. And through our international network, collaboration can be genuinely transformative.

Being part of the IASP global network also gives a clear line of sight into what works elsewhere, and just as importantly, what does not travel well.

Many international science parks are looking for resilient, cost-competitive and diversified innovation and supplier ecosystems: African hubs, particularly those close to manufacturing, agri-processing, energy and digital services, can plug into these value chains if the right bridges are built, and IASP provides a neutral, trusted platform to make those connections credible. Structured talent and knowledge exchange through secondments, joint research projects and shared incubation curricula allows this expertise to flow both ways. And the sometimes-underestimated South-South collaboration can help. Through IASP, African science parks can deliberately take advantage of the South-South collaboration, connecting with counterparts in Latin America and Asia that have navigated similar development trajectories.

IASP provides the platform, the responsibility lies with us to use it strategically. That means collaborating with intent, leading where our context offers distinct advantages, and shaping global innovation conversations rather than simply joining them.

This role has reinforced my conviction that African science parks must speak with a more confident, collective voice. Through regional coordination, shared benchmarking methodologies, and joint initiatives, we can position Africa not as an “emerging participant” in the global innovation system, but as a credible co-creator within it.



DIGITISATION IS NECESSARY, BUT INCLUSION MUST MOVE AT THE SAME PACE

South Africa is in the midst of a significant digital shift. Across government, industry and development institutions, digitalisation is increasingly regarded as essential to improving efficiency, transparency and access to services.

In many respects, this shift is both necessary and overdue. A modern economy cannot function effectively without embracing digital tools and systems.

For the purposes of this discussion, it is useful to distinguish between digitisation and digitalisation. Digitisation refers to the conversion of records, information and processes from paper based or analogue formats into digital form. Digitalisation speaks to a broader change — the restructuring of systems, institutional processes and service delivery models around digital technologies.

While these terms are often used interchangeably, the difference matters, particularly when considering questions of access and inclusion.

From the perspective of institutions driving reform, the benefits of digitalisation are clear. Digital systems can streamline processes, improve data management and extend the reach of services. In a resource constrained environment, digital solutions are often viewed as the most practical way to scale impact and improve delivery.

Yet the lived reality for many South Africans is more complex.

Digital infrastructure remains unevenly distributed across the country. While some areas benefit from advanced connectivity and stable access, many rural and peripheral communities continue to face limited or unreliable internet, high data costs, unstable electricity and low levels of digital literacy. In this context, the digital divide continues to reflect broader social and economic inequalities.

As more public services, employment processes and everyday economic activities move online, digital access is no longer optional. Job applications, grant systems, licensing processes, healthcare bookings and learning platforms increasingly assume reliable connectivity and a level of digital confidence. For people who rely on prepaid data, shared devices or public access points, this shift introduces new and often invisible barriers.

This tension is particularly evident in the digitalisation of public services. Online platforms and automated systems are

introduced to improve efficiency and access, yet challenges arise when physical alternatives are withdrawn too quickly or when users are expected to navigate complex systems without adequate support. In such instances, exclusion does not result from policy intent, but from the way systems are designed and implemented.

A recurring risk in rapid digital reform is the assumption that access equals inclusion. Technical connectivity does not necessarily translate into meaningful participation. Digital systems require confidence, familiarity and skills, especially as platforms become more sophisticated. Without deliberate investment in digital literacy and ongoing support, digitalisation risks benefiting those who are already digitally enabled, while leaving others behind.

There is also a tendency to treat digital transformation as a technical exercise, rather than as a social one. Systems may function well from an institutional perspective, yet fail to account for realities such as intermittent connectivity, power disruptions or shared access to devices. When these realities are overlooked, trust in digital systems weakens and the intended benefits of reform are undermined.

An additional challenge lies in the digitisation of government records and documents. Public institutions are custodians of vast amounts of information that underpin service delivery, accountability and institutional memory. As digitisation accelerates, paper based systems, legacy archives and digital platforms often coexist. This uneven transition results in duplication, delays and administrative uncertainty.

For citizens, the consequences are immediate. Applications stall, records are misplaced between systems and individuals are required to resubmit information already held by the state. Those with limited digital access bear the highest burden, as repeated submissions carry financial, time and emotional costs.

Reluctance to digitise fully within parts of the public service is not always resistance to change. In many cases, it reflects legitimate concerns around data security, legal compliance, skills readiness and accountability. Physical records can offer a sense of certainty in environments already under pressure.

However, when this hesitation results in fragmented systems, it compounds exclusion and undermines continuity, particularly for those least able to navigate complexity.

These realities point to a broader consideration: inclusive digitalisation cannot be achieved by any single actor acting alone. Closing the digital divide requires coordinated action across government, the private sector, development institutions and civil society.

Government has a responsibility to recognise digitalisation not only as a technical reform, but as a social and economic shift. This includes aligning reform timelines with realities on the ground, retaining assisted access points for essential services and ensuring that the introduction of digital systems does not outpace citizens' ability to engage meaningfully.

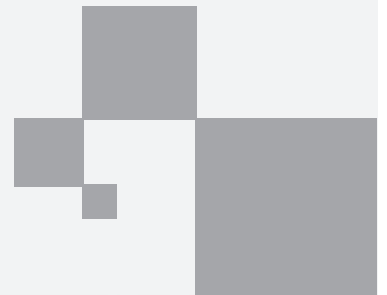
The private sector, as a major driver of digital innovation, must also reflect on its role. While technological advancement and automation are reshaping industries, these gains risk remaining concentrated unless deliberate efforts are made to expand access, invest in skills and support affordable connectivity. Digital inclusion should be understood not only as a social good, but as a foundation for long term economic participation.

Development institutions and innovation hubs similarly need to consider whether digital interventions are reaching beyond early adopters and urban centres. Platforms and training programmes must be designed for accessibility and scale, rather than for demonstration alone.

For institutions actively promoting digital capability, including the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ), this context underlines the importance of pairing advocacy with practical enablement. Through its Science and Technology Park, the ELIDZ facilitates access to Cisco accredited ICT training programmes aimed at building digital skills in the Eastern Cape. These initiatives contribute to strengthening digital capability, but their impact depends on sustained support and integration into broader inclusion efforts.

Ultimately, digital readiness cannot be assumed. It must be built deliberately, supported consistently and grounded in lived realities. Progress should be measured not by the number of platforms launched or documents digitised, but by capability built, trust strengthened and participation widened.

Digitisation is necessary. But if digitalisation is to support development rather than deepen inequality, it must move at a pace that allows institutions, record custodians and citizens to adapt together. Only then can South Africa's digital future be both effective and inclusive.



SERVICES (CAS) LABORATORY

Your Partner for a Cleaner, Safer Eastern Cape



State-of-the-Art SANAS-Accredited Laboratory

At the ELIDZ CAS Laboratory, we provide precise, reliable analytical services that support industries, municipalities, and communities in making informed decisions.

Equipped with cutting-edge technology and supported by a multidisciplinary team of chemists, microbiologists, and environmental scientists, our laboratory delivers accurate results you can trust.

WHY CHOOSE ELIDZ-STP LABORATORY?

Trusted Accuracy: SANAS-accredited laboratory delivering high-precision testing and dependable results.

Comprehensive Analytical Services: From potable water testing to industrial effluent monitoring and microbiological food analysis.

Supporting Environmental and Public Health Standards: Contributing to compliance with national initiatives such as Blue Drop, Green Drop, and Blue Flag programmes.

CHOOSE RELIABLE TESTING

Partner with the ELIDZ Science and Technology Park CAS Laboratory for accurate, trusted analytical services that support environmental compliance, public health and industry standards.

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:** Analysis of industrial discharge to ensure compliance with environmental standards.
- **Microbiological Analysis:** Detection and identification of microorganisms in water and food samples.
- **Microbiological Food Analysis:** Testing of raw, cooked, frozen and processed meats, dairy products, seafood, fruits and vegetables to assess microbial contamination and food safety.



Submit your samples or contact our laboratory specialists today to discuss your testing needs.

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



ELIDZ STP DESIGN CENTRE

Your Hub for *Innovation and Prototyping*



The East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) Science & Technology Park Design Centre provides innovators, entrepreneurs, students and industry with access to advanced prototyping facilities and hands-on learning opportunities.

With affordable and subsidised rates, the Design Centre supports both individual projects and collaborative initiatives, helping transform ideas into real products while strengthening the region's innovation ecosystem.

WHAT WE OFFER:

Prototyping Facilities: Access advanced equipment and tools to design, test and refine your prototypes.

Skills Development & Training: Gain practical, hands-on experience through specialised training and learning programmes.

Product & Prototype Development: From concept to prototype, receive support to develop, test and improve innovative products.

TURN YOUR IDEAS INTO REALITY

Whether you are an entrepreneur, student, innovator or business looking to develop a prototype, the ELIDZ STP Design Centre provides the tools, expertise and environment to bring your ideas to life.

Our thriving Design Centre boasts the following facilities:

Computer Numerical Control Lathe Machine (Haas St 10)

- ✓ Shape or reduce a round steel bar or shaft
- ✓ Drill precision holes to exact measurements
- ✓ Produce round components and threaded parts

Laser Engraver & Cutting Machine (Speed 100)

- ✓ Engrave materials such as steel, perspex, wood, glass, plastics, leather and aluminium
- ✓ Cut perspex, paper, cardboard, wood and leather into custom shapes

3D printers

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

Vinyl printer, cutter and Heat presser machine

- ✓ Create large-format custom graphics like vehicle wraps, banners, wall decals, signage, custom apparel, gifts, personalised t-shirts, etc

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

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

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
& Elevate Your
Event Experience!**

Call us: +27 43 702 8200 / 49

Email: elidzconference@elidz.co.za

www.elidz.co.za

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

SECURED ONSITE
PARKING
& FREE WI-FI

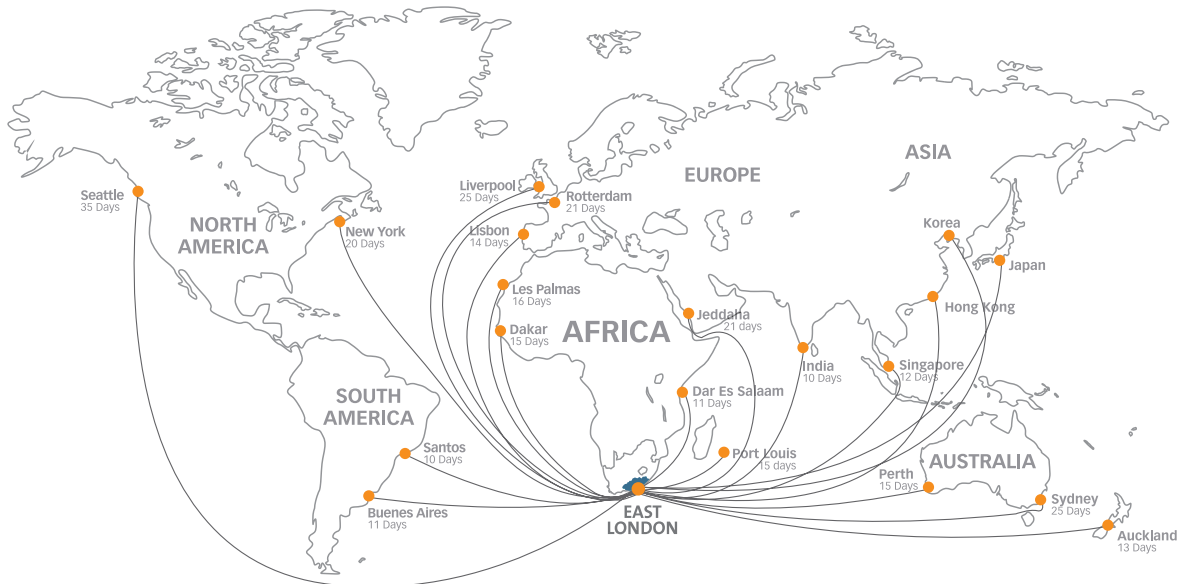
 TAILOR-MADE
**CATERING
SERVICES**

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

VERSATILE EVENT SPACES
ACCOMMODATING UP TO
230 GUESTS
WITH UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY

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