

4IR

RESEARCH CHAIR SYMPOSIUM +EXPO

 27, 28, 29 May 2026

 CPUT - Bellville Auditorium

 09:30 - 16:00

PROGRAMME



Theme: *Embracing the Commercialisation of 4IR-and-Beyond
 Research Outputs in South Africa Through Collaboration,
 Opportunity, Progress For All, and Future-Ready Solutions*

Programme Directors:

Ms Nomonde Gongxeka-Seopa (*Chairperson: ICT and Innovation Committee, MICT SETA*)
 and Ms Lerato Mphaki (*Senior Manager: Regulations and Operations, GIBS*)

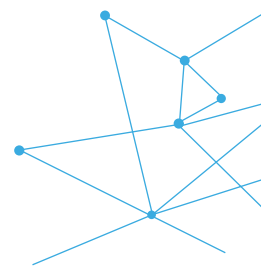
DAY 1 - 27 May 2026

Official Showcasing of the MICT SETA's Six Flagship ICT Systems
 and the Launch of the MICT SETA-CPUT 4IR Research Chair

TIME	TOPIC
09:00	Arrival, Registration and Welcome, Tea/Coffee
10:00	Opening Prof. Chris Nhlapo, Vice-Chancellor (CPUT)
10:20	Welcoming Remarks Dr Platzky Laurine, Chairperson of Council (CPUT)
10:30	Purpose of the Event & Genesis of the MICT SETA Research Chairs Project Mr Matome Madibana CEO (MICT SETA)
10:55	Remarks From the Office of the DVC Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships Prof. Marshall Sheldon, DVC: Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships (CPUT)
11:05	Introduction of the Minister Dr Nkosinathi Sishi, Director-General of Higher Education and Training (DHET)



- 11:15** — **Keynote Address** *“Powering a Future-Ready South Africa: Commercialising Research Innovation For Inclusive Growth and Job Creation”*
Honourable Mr Buti Manamela, Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
- 11:45** — **Introduction of the Six Flagship ICT Systems** | Mr Moloti Nkune, CIO (MICT SETA)
- 11:55** — **Research Chairs (Official Showcasing of The Innovative Flagship ICT Systems)**
- The E-Recruitment System Developed by Vaal University of Technology (VUT)
 - The Knowledge and Information Management System (Data Lakehouse) Developed by Durban University of Technology (DUT)
 - The DHET-SETA Times Website Developed by the University of Limpopo (UL)
 - The MICT SETA Intranet Developed by the University of Johannesburg (UJ)
 - The E-Learning, and Career Hub Developed by Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)
- 12:40** — **MICT SETA-CPUT 4IR Research Chair Launch** | Cape Peninsula University of Technology and MICT SETA
- 12:50** — **Message of Support** | Mr David Mabusela, Acting DDG: Skills Branch (DHET)
- 13:00** — **Lunch and Networking**
- 14:00** — **Setting the Scene** *“Understanding South Africa’s Intellectual Property Framework and the Commercialisation Gap”*
Ms Naomi Ngoasheng, Deputy Director: IP Specialist (The National Intellectual Property Management Office, NIPMO)
- 14:30** — **Panel Discussion** *“Unlocking Value: Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Pathways”*
- Moderator:** Dr Mesuli Mbanjwa, Senior Manager: Commercialisation (NWU)
- Mr Thabo Lebelo, Manager: Technology Transfer Office (University of Limpopo)
 - Ms Omphile Netshiozwi, IP Lawyer (ONIPLAW)
 - Prof. Oludayo Olugbara, MICT SETA DUT Research Chair
 - Dr Revel Iyer, Director: Technology Transfer and Industrial Linkages (CPUT)
- 15:15** — **Messages of Support** | Dr Agnieta Pretorius, Assistant Dean: Postgraduate Studies, Research and Innovation, Faculty of ICT (TUT)
- 15:25** — **Messages of Support** | Prof. Simphiwe Nelana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation, Commercialisation and Internationalisation (VUT)
- 15:35** — **Messages of Support** | Prof. Stella Bvuma, Director: School of Consumer Intelligence and Information Systems (UJ)
- 15:45** — **Messages of Support** | Prof. Mthulisi Velepini, Computer Science (UL)
- 16:00** — **Closing Remarks** | Ms Emma Mphahlele, Board Chairperson (MICT SETA)



Programme Directors:

Ms Thoko Miya (*Chairperson: 4IR Research Advisory Committee, MICT SETA*)
and Ms Donna Frantz (*Lecturer and PhD Candidate, CPUT*)

DAY 2 - 28 May 2026

Sub-Theme: Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

TIME	TOPIC
09:00	Arrival, Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee
09:30	Recap of Day 1
09:40	Research Chairs “Research and Innovation with Commercialisation Potential” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of KwaZulu-Natal • University of Cape Town • Wits School of Digital Arts • STADIO Higher Education • Stellenbosch University • Cape Peninsula University of Technology • Durban University of Technology
12:00	Panel Discussion “Closing the Gap: Unpacking the Challenges of Research Commercialisation in Higher Education Institutions” Moderator: Mr Anda Ngcaba, Executive Director: UCT Financial Innovation Hub (FinHub) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Osgden Jokonya, Department of Information Systems, University of Western Cape (UWC) • Dr. Ncebakazi Galada, Technology Transfer Manager (WSU) • Prof. Olihile Sebolai, Director: SPU Research Office, Sol Plaatjie University (SPU) • Dr Waldon Hendricks, Lecturer: Information Technology (CPUT)
12:40	Introduction of New 4IR Research Chairs Dr Tshepang Mosiea, Board Member (MICT SETA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Mandela University (NMU) • University of South Africa (UNISA) • Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) • Sol Plaatjie University (SPU) • Eduvos
12:50	Student Innovation Presentation Phumelela Consulting
13:00	Lunch and Networking
14:00	Research Paper Presentation by Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Mandela University (NMU) • University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) • University of Cape Town (UCT) • Wits School of Digital Arts • STADIO Higher Education • Stellenbosch University • Vaal University of Technology (VUT) • University of Johannesburg (UJ) • University of South Africa (UNISA) • Durban University of Technology (DUT) • Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
15:30	MOU Signing Collective X
16:00	Closure

Programme Directors:

Mr Eric Thebe (*Board Member, MICT SETA*) and
 Ms Charmaine Houvet (*Senior Director Africa, CISCO*)

Day 3 - 29 MAY 2026

Sub-Theme: Skills, Industry and Inclusive Growth

TIME	TOPIC
09:00	Arrival, Registration and Welcome, Tea/Coffee
09:30	Recap of Day 2
09:40	Panel Discussion <i>“Emerging Technologies and Skills: Space technologies, Data Centre, AI”</i>
	Moderator: Ms Juanita Clark, CEO (Digital Council Africa)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Jessie Ndaba, Co-Founder and CEO (Astrofica) • Dr Andile Ngcaba, Founder and Patron (The Cortex Hub) • Mr Matamela Mashau, Chief Technology Officer (Huawei Enterprise)
10:20	Student Innovations Presentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mLab • Greycode • Youth Media Movement
11:10	Panel Discussion <i>“Financing Innovation: Funding, Incubation and Scaling 4IR Start-Ups”</i>
	Moderator: Mr Patrick Krappie, Executive Innovation Enabling, Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Billy Bokako, Senior Manager: Incubation (SEDFA) • Mr Tshepo Phetla, Head of Business Development Telkom (FutureMakers) • Mr Evan Jones, CEO (Collective X) • Ms Nomazibulo Tshanga, Founder and CEO (Africa Rising Leadership)
11:45	Adaptation of the Symposium Outcomes and Vote of Thanks Ms Ntombikayise Khumalo, Board Member (MICT SETA)
12:00	Lunch and Closure

