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An International Conference to Mark 20 years of Small Business Promotion in South Africa

Johannesburg, Gauteng: The Forging Enterprise National Small Business Conference 2015, led by Osiba Management, will be held 26-28 May at the CTICC to celebrate 20 years of small business promotion in South Africa.

Held under the theme: **Technology and innovation for inclusive growth**, the conference will deliberate and present experiences on how technology and innovation enhances economic inclusion through fostering successful and growth-oriented SMEs. The Forging Enterprise National Small Business Conference will be co-located with the 11th Annual Meeting and Forum of the International Network for Small & Medium Enterprises (INSME), the first INSME conference to be held in Africa.

SME successes and challenges as well as the way forward for SME promotion will be discussed at the conference by speakers such as the first ever minister of Small Business Development, the Honourable Ms Lindiwe Zulu. Several prominent practitioners in the field of SME innovation and technology commercialisation from South Africa and around the world will also be present to assess the state of practice in the field and for mutual learning and networking.

In addition, to celebrate the achievements in small business promotion over the past 20 years, the first ever Small Business Promotion Pioneer Award will be presented to institutions that have played a special pioneering role in the field.

The conference programme will also allow several entrepreneurs to share their experiences in working with the country's leading technology transfer and commercialisation institutions to access the latest technology and grow their businesses. An exhibition which will run alongside the conference will showcase small business support programmes and products & services offered by small businesses. An innovation tour to the leading small business innovation institutions in the Cape Town area is also part of the diverse conference programme. Participants at the conference will include a wide range of actors in small business promotion in South Africa and abroad – policymakers, academics and researchers, SME support institutions, financial institutions, innovation and technology transfer institutions – and entrepreneurs themselves.

For more information, visit <http://forgingenterprise.co.za/> or email forgingenterprise2015@mci-group.com