



TIA NEWS

JUNE 2026



TIA'S CORE VALUES, MISSION, AND VISION TRULY GUIDE EVERYTHING WE DO.

They reflect our commitment to making a positive impact.



Vision

To be a dynamic, intelligence-driven national innovation agency championing transformative, high-impact innovations.



Mission

To nurture an ecosystem that fosters innovation, accelerates the development of groundbreaking solutions, and facilitates collaboration toward inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

TIA ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

People Centric



Pioneering



Excellence



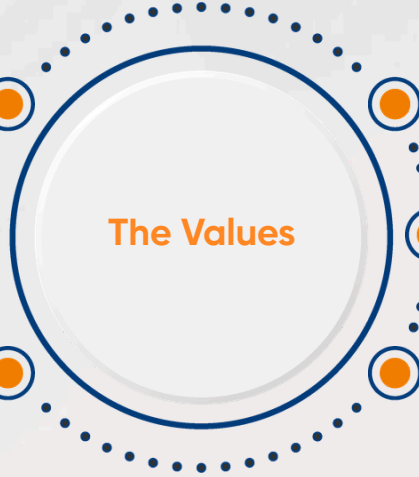
Responsive



Answerally



Sustainability



INNOVATING TOMORROW TOGETHER

CONTENT

- 1. New CEO**
- 2. SA Innovation Week**
- 3. New Board**
- 4. MoU partnerships**
- 5. Durban Innovation Festival**
- 6. Mining Indaba**
- 7. TIA in the news**



1 | NEW CEO

TIA welcomes new CEO Dr Titus Mathe as organisation enters next phase of innovation growth

TIA has officially welcomed its new Chief Executive Officer, Dr Titus Mathe, who has begun his term in office.

Dr Mathe assumes leadership at a pivotal moment, as TIA strengthens its role within South Africa's National System of Innovation and intensifies efforts to accelerate the development and commercialisation of technology-driven solutions that address key national priorities, including economic growth, job creation, and inclusive development.

His appointment comes at a time when TIA is advancing its repositioning through the TIA 2.0 Strategy, which is designed to sharpen organisational focus, improve delivery impact, and strengthen alignment with national development priorities.

In his early engagements with staff, Dr Mathe expressed appreciation for the warm reception and reaffirmed his commitment to building on the organisation's strong foundations. He highlighted the importance of collaboration, agility, and impact-driven innovation, underscoring TIA's critical role in enabling a robust innovation pipeline, from ideation through to commercialisation.

Across the organisation, staff have welcomed his appointment with optimism, viewing it as an opportunity for renewed momentum in TIA's work with innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry partners.

His arrival signals the beginning of a new phase for the agency as it continues to deepen its impact in strengthening South Africa's innovation ecosystem and expanding opportunities for innovation-led growth.

Going forward, TIA is expected to further intensify its efforts to bridge the gap between research and commercialisation, ensuring that innovation translates into meaningful economic and societal benefits.

The organisation has extended a warm welcome to Dr Mathe and looks forward to working with him as he leads TIA into its next chapter of growth, transformation, and impact.



TIA warmly welcomes Dr Titus Mathe to his new position as Chief Executive Officer.

2 SA INNOVATION WEEK

TIA positions innovation at the centre of economic renewal at the Inaugural SA Innovation Week 2026

South Africa's efforts to promote innovation as a driver of economic growth and inclusion gained momentum with the launch of South Africa Innovation Week 2026 (SAIW'26), hosted by TIA in partnership with the SA Innovation Summit (SAIS) in March 2026.

SAIW'26 was hosted from 16–20 March 2026. The first phase, from 16–17 March, saw nationwide innovation showcase activities executed by ecosystem enablers across various provinces, culminating in a three-day (18–20 March) innovation festival at the NASREC Expo Centre in Johannesburg.



From provincial activations to a high-energy national gathering, innovators, industry leaders, and policymakers united to turn bold ideas into real economic and social impact.

SAIW'26 brought together leaders from government, business, academia, and the broader innovation ecosystem to explore how locally developed solutions can be scaled into sustainable enterprises and competitive industries. Across the week, discussions and exhibitions highlighted the critical role of innovation in addressing South Africa's most pressing challenges, including unemployment, inequality, and slow industrial growth.





Dr Nomalungelo Gina, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, key speaker at SAIW

Dr Nomalungelo Gina, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, reaffirmed the government's commitment to embedding innovation at the center of South Africa's development agenda.

"Innovation is the lifeblood of any forward-looking economy and a key driver of industrialisation. It is common knowledge that all fast-growing economies are driven by strong investments in research and development (R&D) and a robust system for commercialising prototypes. All countries that innovate rather than import technology solutions are the strongest," said Dr Gina.

The Deputy Minister highlighted the importance of a more integrated and coordinated national strategy, viewing innovation as a driving force for industrial growth, competitiveness, and long-term economic stability. Key to this is stronger collaboration among industry, higher education institutions, science councils, and agencies such as TIA, along with greater inclusion of grassroots innovators.

TIA Board Chairperson, Loyiso Tyira, said SAIW'26 represents a deliberate effort to strengthen South Africa's National System of Innovation and accelerate the commercialisation of homegrown technologies.

"For innovation to contribute meaningfully to economic growth, there must be a stronger focus on converting research and ideas into market-ready solutions that create jobs and drive industrial development," said the board chair.

YOUTH TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAMME (YTIP)

During SAIW'26, TIA reinforced its commitment to youth innovation as a key driver of inclusive economic growth through science, technology, and innovation. As part of the programme, the agency hosted innovation showcases across the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, and Northern Cape.

Through the Youth Technology Innovation Programme (YTIP), TIA continues to strengthen the National System of Innovation by nurturing young innovators who are tackling real-world challenges with practical solutions. YTIP targets South Africans aged 18 to 35 who are developing technology-based innovations with the potential to address socio-economic challenges, create jobs, and advance inclusive economic participation.

The programme gained strong visibility at SAIW'26, where provincial finalists presented their innovations directly to investors, policymakers, and industry stakeholders, creating critical exposure and linking ideas to potential market opportunities.

The provincial competitions have showcased a wide range of youth-led solutions across healthcare, agriculture, climate resilience, consumer protection, and digital marketplaces, highlighting the depth, creativity, and growing potential of South Africa's innovation pipeline.

Over the past 15 years, TIA has played a central role in supporting the development and commercialisation of innovative technologies, working closely with entrepreneurs, researchers, and industry partners to unlock opportunities across multiple sectors.

TIA maintains that one of the key barriers to innovation-led growth in South Africa is not a shortage of ideas or research capability, but rather the lack of an enabling environment to translate innovation into viable, scalable industries. Addressing this gap remains central to TIA's mandate to support the development of sovereign technologies and to drive long-term, inclusive economic growth.

GCIP-SA ADVANCES CLEANTECH INNOVATION TO DRIVE SOUTH AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION

TIA recently hosted the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme – South Africa (GCIP-SA) Awards, positioning clean technology innovation as a key driver of environmental sustainability, economic development, and job creation, while supporting entrepreneurs developing solutions to some of South Africa's most urgent challenges.



GCIP-SA highlighted the growing impact of locally developed solutions in advancing sustainability, creating jobs, and opening new market opportunities.

GCIP-SA is part of TIA's broader mandate to support, develop, and commercialise innovation that delivers meaningful socioeconomic impact. Over the past 15 years, the agency has played a catalytic role in transforming locally developed ideas into viable businesses and scalable industries. TIA has partnered with organisations such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to drive clean technology innovation and entrepreneurship in South Africa, through the GCIP.

The 2026 awards highlighted a growing pipeline of South African innovators developing technologies that advance climate resilience, resource efficiency, and circular economy practices. Finalists and winners showcased practical solutions addressing water scarcity, food security, energy access, and waste reduction.

Among the winning innovations were sustainable agricultural technologies, chemical-free water treatment systems, and circular economy platforms for the construction sector, demonstrating the increasing maturity and relevance of South Africa's cleantech ecosystem.

GCIP-SA is a year long programme that provides participating entrepreneurs with access to structured acceleration programmes, mentorship, technical training, market linkages, and investment readiness support. The initiative is designed to strengthen the capacity of startups and small enterprises to move from concept to commercialisation, and to compete in both local and global markets.

TIA Board Chairperson, Loyiso Tyira, emphasised the importance of supporting locally developed technologies that align with global sustainability priorities, noting that innovation is becoming increasingly central to competitiveness in a world where environmental performance shapes trade, investment, and industrial growth.

“South Africa's innovation ecosystem must continue to enable entrepreneurs to develop solutions that respond to both national priorities and global sustainability demands,” he said.



Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Dr Nomalungelo Gina, also commended the finalists for demonstrating how innovation can drive economic growth, create jobs, and support the transition to a greener economy.

Through GCIP-SA, TIA continues to strengthen linkages between innovators, industry partners, and investors, supporting South Africa's transition toward a low-carbon economy while positioning local enterprises to compete in international markets.

As the country advances its climate and development agenda, initiatives such as GCIP-SA are increasingly recognised as critical enablers in translating innovation into tangible economic and environmental impact.

This year, 38 startups entered the programme, after months of development, mentorship, and testing 10 finalists were selected:

- **Vonnie Projects** from Limpopo produces biomass-based animal feed and energy briquettes.
- **Phoka M Holdings** from Mpumalanga, provides chemical-free water treatment for industrial and mining use.
- **Godisang Spaces** from Gauteng developed the CircularBuild digital platform for construction waste reuse.
- **Dakar Consulting** from the Northern Cape developed a solar-powered desalination and off-grid electricity system.
- **Gemanlee** from Gauteng, focusing on high-purity graphite recovery from electric vehicle batteries.
- **Kasi Gas - Gentle Ginger Holdings** from Mpumalanga, converts biogas and biofertiliser from organic waste.
- **Mosebe Enterprise** from the Western Cape, created the Tsepo V3 off-grid energy system for low-income communities.
- **NutriXect** from Mpumalanga produces insect-based poultry feed using organic waste.
- **The Itsile Group** from Gauteng developed a smart logistics platform to track and reduce carbon emissions.
- **The Makers Club** from KwaZulu-Natal created a smart farming system for irrigation and soil optimisation.

The top three winners earned international recognition after showcasing their solutions at Cleantech Days, held alongside the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum in Austria. Three leading South African ventures, Vonnie Projects, Phoka M Holdings, and Godisang Spaces, represented South Africa at the Global Pitching Competition, competing against participants from 22 countries. Their success at the Vienna forum showcases South Africa's growing competitiveness in the global cleantech sector and highlights the important role that innovation-driven enterprises play in advancing sustainable economic growth.



The GCIP-SA finalists taking the stage

3

NEW BOARD

TIA enters new governance chapter with appointment of Board to steer innovation-led growth

TIA has announced the appointment of its new Board, marking the start of a new governance cycle as the organisation enters a refreshed phase of strategic focus and institutional growth.

The Board's four-year term, which commenced in November 2025, represents a significant milestone for TIA as it continues to strengthen its role in advancing technological innovation that supports inclusive economic growth and national development priorities.

After 15 years of driving innovation, the organisation is now entering a new strategic era focused on strengthening operational excellence, deepening industry collaboration, and unlocking greater socio-economic impact through a more targeted and results-driven approach.

This repositioning builds on TIA's established role as a catalyst between research and commercialisation, supporting innovators, entrepreneurs, and startups through funding, technical infrastructure, and business development support across the country.

The agency is confident that the newly appointed Board will provide strong strategic leadership during this next phase of growth. The new Board will maintain the highest standards of governance and integrity while offering strategic direction as the agency builds on 15 years of progress and innovation.

TIA Board Chairperson Loyiso Tyira said that as TIA moves forward, the new Board is expected to play a central role in strengthening institutional impact, enhancing partnerships across the innovation ecosystem, and ensuring that innovation continues to contribute meaningfully to South Africa's inclusive economic transformation.



“The organisation acknowledges with respect the passing of two valued members of the Board, Prof. Keo Motaung and Dr. Renee Thompson, who passed away last year. We honor their distinguished service, leadership, and enduring contributions to the organisation. Their leadership and commitment have left a lasting legacy that will continue to guide our work and strategic direction. To ensure continuity of governance and sustained oversight, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Nzimande, has appointed Ms Anita Nel and Ms Mathapelo Mzizi to fill the vacant positions,” **said Tyira.**

These appointments are effective 16 March 2026 and are in line with the organisation's governance requirements. The newly appointed members bring a wealth of experience and diverse expertise, which will further strengthen the Board's capacity to provide strategic leadership and oversight.

We extend a warm welcome to the new members and look forward to their contribution as the organisation continues to deliver on its mandate. Further details regarding Board Committee allocations and portfolios will be communicated in due course.

4

MOU PARTNERSHIPS

TIA's engagements with SETA CEOs are beginning to show results

In 2025, TIA engaged with the CEO's of Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) to identify opportunities for collaboration and establish platforms for partnerships to advance inclusive economic growth. By pooling resources, aligning strategies, and committing to shared goals, TIA and the SETAs are building an innovation ecosystem that empowers people, creates future-ready jobs, and positions South Africa as a leader in innovation and technology.

These engagements were a significant step toward a more unified approach to addressing the country's pressing socio-economic challenges, grounded in a shared commitment to building a resilient and inclusive economy. Through these discussions, TIA and the SETAs identified opportunities for innovation-led skills development across key sectors, explored integrated planning and funding mechanisms for emerging technologies, established collaborative pilot initiatives, and formalised a working group to ensure sustained and structured engagement.

The engagements are now beginning to yield tangible outcomes



Mr Patrick Krappie, Executive for Innovation Enabling at TIA, and Ms Robyn Vilakazi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of EWSETA

TIA and the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) renewed their long-standing partnership by signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signaling a strengthened commitment to advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth in South Africa.

The renewed agreement marks a new phase of collaboration between the two organisations, focused on aligning innovation funding, skills development, and technology commercialisation efforts to respond more effectively to the country's socio-economic challenges.



In addition, TIA and the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen skills development, accelerate innovation, and expand employment opportunities in South Africa's emerging technology sectors.

Mr Patrick Krappie, Executive for Innovation Enabling at TIA, and Yershen Pillay, Chief Executive Officer of CHIETA

MOU PARTNERSHIPS

At the centre of the partnership is the intention to connect TIA's innovation ecosystem with CHIETA's Smart-Skills Ecosystem. This will create a structured pathway linking education, training, and innovation to real economic opportunities, while supporting national priorities outlined in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP), with a strong emphasis on youth employment and inclusive participation.



Mr Patrick Krappie, Executive for Innovation Enabling at TIA, and Yershen Pillay, Chief Executive Officer of CHIETA.

TIA Board Chairperson, Loyiso Tyira, welcomed the partnerships, noting that they reflect the organisation's commitment to playing a more catalytic role within South Africa's National System of Innovation.



"Partnerships play a critical role in addressing systemic innovation challenges and supporting the development of sustainable, future-focused solutions. As South Africa continues to position itself for a knowledge-driven future, partnerships such as these are expected to play a critical role in shaping a more inclusive, innovative, and globally competitive economy," said Tyira.

"These partnerships reflect a broader shift towards a more coordinated and outcomes-driven approach, aligned with TIA's evolving TIA 2.0 strategic framework. The approach places emphasis on strengthening partnerships across the innovation ecosystem to maximise impact and accelerate the translation of ideas into market-ready solutions."



5

DURBAN INNOVATION FESTIVAL

TIA showcases innovation leadership at the 10th annual Innovation Festival

Sibusiso Manana, Head of Agriculture at TIA, participated in a panel discussion on Agri-Tech in the Age of Scarcity at the 10th Annual Innovation Festival, where discussions focused on the role of innovation in addressing growing social, economic, and environmental challenges.



TIA participation at 10th annual Innovation Festival

TIA's participation sought to increase its reach among innovation stakeholders and potential innovators in Durban and KwaZulu-Natal. Held in April and hosted by Innovate Durban, one of TIA's successful Living Labs, the festival brought together changemakers, leaders, and innovators committed to advancing inclusive and sustainable development across KwaZulu-Natal and within South Africa's broader innovation ecosystem.

The 2026 theme of the Innovation Festival reflected the growing need to innovate across the National System of Innovation (NSI) by advancing partnerships. The event created opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, showcasing local innovators, fostering dialogue on key trends, and celebrating progress in innovation.

This is the festival's 10th anniversary, featuring keynote sessions and panel discussions. The discussions explored how to innovate and invest for a sustainable future, emerging trends in Agri-tech and fintech, and how cybersecurity and artificial intelligence are expected to reshape jobs across the industry.

During his participation in the Agri Tech in the age of scarcity and the role of the public sector panel, Manana emphasised the importance of technology and innovation in strengthening agriculture's future.

He said TIA enables and supports technological innovation across all sectors of the economy to deliver socio-economic benefits for South Africa and enhance its global competitiveness, including in the agricultural sector.

“The public sector plays a critical role in creating an enabling environment through supportive policies, investment in research and infrastructure, capacity development, and funding mechanisms that empower innovators and farmers. By strengthening collaboration among government, industry, and research institutions, we can accelerate the development and adoption of technologies that address current challenges and build a more inclusive, sustainable future in the industry of agriculture,” said Manana.

TIA supports technologies with commercialisation potential that contribute to competitive, sustainable, and inclusive agricultural and agribusiness value chains. This includes improving the diffusion of appropriate agricultural technologies to small-scale and emerging farmers.

The festival also highlighted Innovate Durban as one of TIA's successful Living Labs. Innovate Durban has played a key role in fostering grassroots innovation, including through initiatives such as The Innovation Co-Lab in Cato Manor, which provides communities with access to innovation tools, resources, skills development opportunities, and platforms that strengthen the regional innovation ecosystem.

6

MINING INDABA

TIA showcases innovation-led mining investment opportunities at Mining Indaba 2026

TIA has highlighted the role of innovation in unlocking new investment and value-creation opportunities within South Africa's mining sector during Mining Indaba 2026.



TIA Chairperson, Loyiso Tyira, participated in a high-level session titled “Building Critical Minerals Value Chains in South Africa: An Investor Dialogue”, where discussions focused on strengthening investment pathways and enhancing collaboration across the mining value chain. TIA's Head of Energy and Natural Resources, Daya Naidoo, also contributed to a panel exploring how science, innovation policy, and coordinated partnerships are driving the modernisation of the mining industry.

These engagements formed part of broader efforts within South Africa's science and innovation ecosystem, coordinated by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), to position mining as a key driver of industrial development and sustainable economic growth.

TIA's participation underscored its strategic focus on supporting technologies that improve the sustainable extraction and utilisation of natural resources, while enhancing the competitiveness of the local mining sector. Mining remains a priority area within the Department's Decadal Plan, with a strong emphasis on innovation-led industrial transformation.

The agency's natural resources portfolio spans key areas including water resource management, waste management, circular economy solutions, climate change mitigation, mining, and mineral processing. A central objective is strengthening water security through advanced technologies that improve efficiency in addressing water scarcity and reduce the environmental impact of industrial activity.

TIA also supports the development of circular economy and net-zero technologies to improve resource efficiency in extraction and processing while reducing the environmental footprint of industrial operations.

Speaking during the session, Tyira emphasised that innovation is essential to unlocking the full economic potential of South Africa's mineral wealth.

“The real opportunity for South Africa is not only in mining critical minerals, but in beneficiation, advanced processing, and technology development. Innovation allows us to move beyond being a raw materials exporter towards becoming a technology-driven, value-adding economy that is globally competitive and locally impactful,” he said.

TIA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the scaling of locally developed technologies to address key industry challenges and unlock new economic opportunities. Through targeted investments in strategic innovation programmes across mining, energy, water, and the circular economy, the agency aims to de-risk emerging technologies and support their adoption within industry.

These interventions are intended to improve extraction and processing efficiencies, enable local manufacturing capabilities, and strengthen South Africa's participation in global energy transition value chains.

As global demand for critical minerals continues to grow, TIA's approach positions innovation as a key enabler of a more sustainable, competitive, and value-driven mining sector.

7 | TIA IN THE NEWS

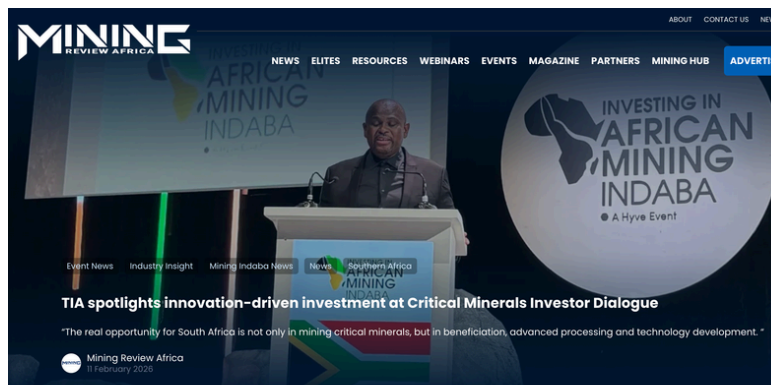
Mining Indaba | SA Innovation Week | Partnerships | CEO appointment

Mining Indaba

TIA spotlights innovation-driven investment at Critical Minerals Investor Dialogue

TIA Chairperson, Loyiso Tyira, participated in a high-level session titled “Building Critical Minerals Value Chains in South Africa: An Investor Dialogue”, where discussions focused on strengthening investment pathways and enhancing collaboration across the mining value chain. TIA’s Head of Energy and Natural Resources, Daya Naidoo, also contributed to a panel exploring how science, innovation policy, and coordinated partnerships are driving the modernisation of the mining industry.

TIA was featured in Mining Review Africa following its participation in the Mining Indaba. The Agency participated in a high-level session on developing critical minerals value chains in South Africa. The Mining Indaba gathered key government officials, investors, and industry stakeholders.



The discussions highlighted the importance of research, development, and innovation as a strategic focus to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of South Africa’s mining industry, reaffirming the government’s dedication to making the country a dependable and value-adding supplier of critical minerals.

Mining Review Africa:
[Click here to read more](#)

SA hosts continent's Mining Indaba

TIA was interviewed on Newzroom Afrika before Mining Indaba, where Daya Naidoo, Head of Energy and Natural Resources, stressed that innovation is key to unlocking long-term value from South Africa’s mineral resources, especially through beneficiation, advanced processing, and technology development. TIA emphasised its role in supporting the deployment of locally developed technologies to boost efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness. The Agency also reaffirmed its role as a system integrator, fostering collaboration among government, industry, and research institutions to translate innovation into practical solutions that promote inclusive economic growth and bolster South Africa’s position in global critical minerals value chains.

Tandokazi Nquma-Moyo, TIA’s General Manager for Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations, was also featured on SABC News, where she discussed how science and innovation are shaping the future of mining.

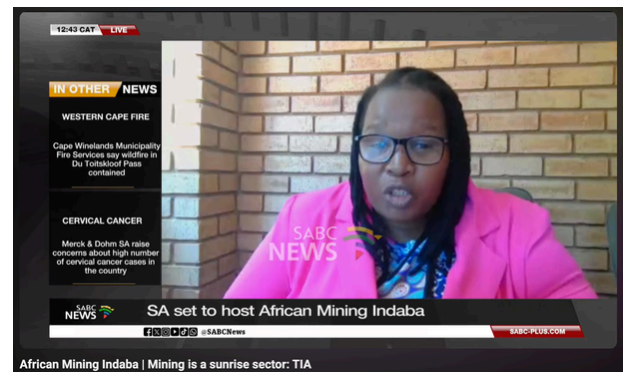
Newzroom Afrika: [Watch the interview](#)



African Mining Indaba | Mining is a sunrise sector: TIA

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) says mining is a sunrise sector because of the opportunities it brings for beneficiation. The indaba kicks off at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in the Western Cape tomorrow.

TIA General Manager for Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations Zandokazi Nquma-Moyo unpacks how science and innovation are reshaping mining for the future.



SABC News: [Watch the interview](#)

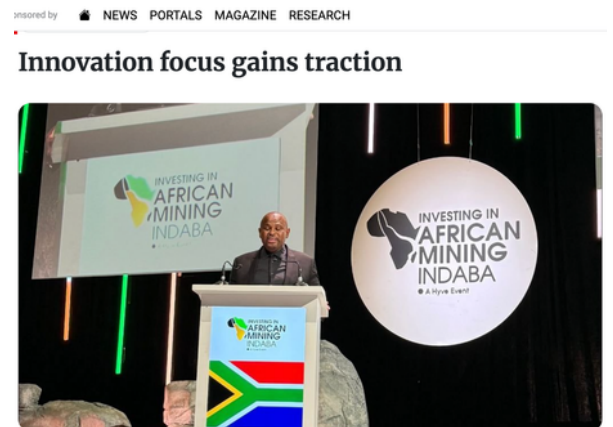
Innovation focus gains traction

TIA was featured in Engineering News and Mining Weekly. Board Chair Loyiso Tyira stressed that research, development, and innovation are crucial for South Africa’s mining competitiveness and sustainability. He highlighted that innovation is essential for transforming the country into a value-added hub in global supply chains, especially with the energy transition, digitalisation, and advanced manufacturing.

He emphasised South Africa’s potential beyond minerals to beneficiation, processing, and tech development, vital for a competitive, innovation-driven economy. Amid industry challenges like rising costs, declining productivity, and environmental issues, TIA commits to supporting local tech adoption and expansion.

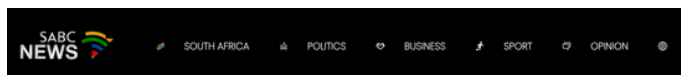
By investing strategically and adopting a systems integrator approach, TIA aims to enhance stakeholder collaboration, unlock new opportunities, and promote inclusive, sustainable growth.

Engineering News: [Click here to read more](#)



SA Innovation Week

Innovation must translate into jobs: TIA, SA Innovation Summit



Home | Business
Innovation must translate into jobs: TIA, SA Innovation Summit



Attendees at the South African Innovation Week (SAIW)

Coverage from SABC News highlighted SA Innovation Week ahead of the event, emphasising the need to translate innovation into meaningful job creation. Planned for March, it aims to bridge the gap among innovation, access to funding, and economic impact, especially for start-ups and small businesses.

TIA Executive Patrick Krappie highlighted that SA Innovation Week will unite industry, academia, civil society, and government to boost collaboration. He stressed that the event would focus on supporting SMMEs and start-ups by tackling growth challenges and promoting them as key to job creation and economic growth in South Africa.

SABC News: [Click here to read more](#)

Unlocking South Africa's innovation potential through collaboration and commercialisation

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity within South Africa's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), in partnership with the SA Innovation Summit (SAIS), will host the inaugural SA Innovation Week from March 16-20.

The Innovation Week marks a significant milestone in the evolution of South Africa's innovation ecosystem, introducing a nationally coordinated platform that brings together innovation, investment, research, industry, and public-sector priorities in a more integrated and collaborative way.

Motsweding FM: [Click here to listen](#)

Unlocking Investment for Innovation-Led Growth in South Africa

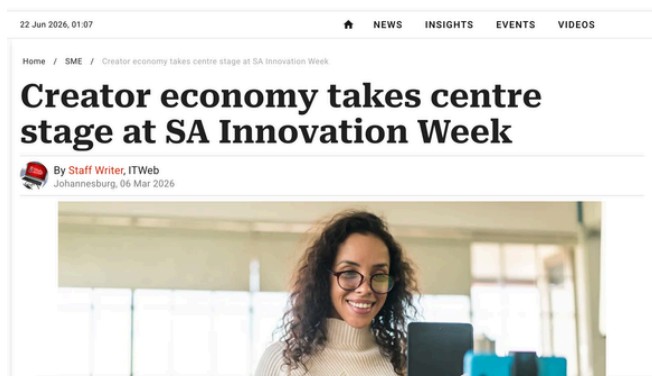
The first phase (March 16-17) will see nationwide innovation showcase activities executed by ecosystem enablers in various provinces, culminating in a three-day innovation festival at the NASREC Expo Centre in Johannesburg.

Fundamentally, SAIW'26 is about connecting entrepreneurs to capital and corporate supply chains and connecting capital and corporate to locally developed innovative technologies. One of the key challenges in the innovation value chain is ensuring that new technologies and innovations are commercialised.

Radio Islam: [Click here to listen](#)

Creator economy takes centre stage at SA Innovation Week

South Africa's growing creator economy will take centre stage at the SA Innovation Week 2026, where a new collaboration between the SA Innovation Summit and Creator Hub will explore how digital creators are driving innovation and economic participation across the continent.



According to a statement, the partnership will introduce a dedicated "influence with innovation" track, positioning the creator economy as a growing force shaping the future of work, storytelling and digital entrepreneurship in SA.

The Creator Hub Programme will convene digital creators, platform experts and industry stakeholders to examine how content creation has evolved from online expression into a structured economic sector.

IT Web: [Click here to read more](#)

South Africa Innovation Week 2026 to showcase the role of creators in driving economic growth

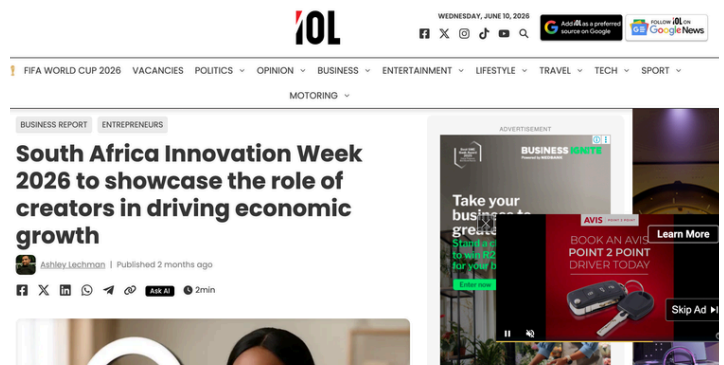
In a significant development for the creator economy, South Africa Innovation Week 2026 (SAIW'26) has announced an exciting collaboration with Creator Hub to present a specially curated programme.

Set to take place from 18–20 March 2026 at NASREC, Johannesburg, this collaboration will anchor the "Influence with Innovation" track, emphasising how creators are not only reshaping cultural narratives but also driving innovation, economic participation, and technological adoption across the continent.

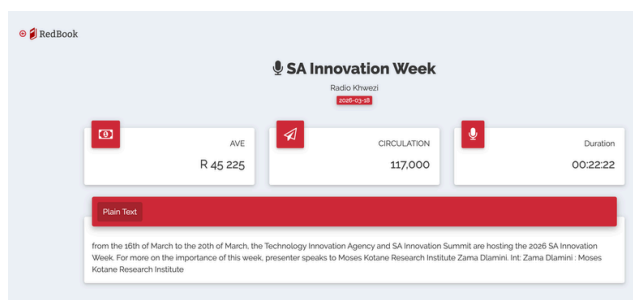


The Creator Hub Programme aims to gather leading digital creators, platform experts, and industry stakeholders to delve into how content creation has transitioned from mere online expression to a vital economic sector.

IOL: [Click here to read more](#)



The Future of innovation in South Africa: connecting research, investment, and industry for greater impact



From March 16 to 20, 2026, the Technology Innovation Agency and the SA Innovation Summit will host the inaugural SA Innovation Week. This landmark event will bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, corporate leaders, and policymakers to drive innovation in South Africa.

Activities will take place across several provinces, culminating in a three-day festival at the NASREC Expo Centre in Johannesburg, designed to accelerate funding, strategic partnerships, and the commercialisation of new technologies.

Radio Khwezi: [Click here to listen](#)

Unlocking South Africa's innovation potential through collaboration and commercialisation

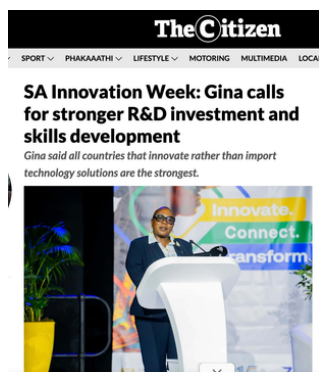
SA Innovation Week is a flagship initiative of the Technology Innovation Agency, an agency of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, under its Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030.

It brings together the energy, talent, and capital of the innovation ecosystem on a single shared platform for showcasing, networking, and dialogue.

Jozi FM: [Click here to listen](#)



SA Innovation Week: Gina calls for stronger R&D investment and skills development



Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) Dr Nomalungelo Gina says innovation is the lifeblood of any forward-looking country and industrialisation. Gina delivered the opening address at the Inaugural SA Innovation Week 2026 in Johannesburg on Wednesday, 18 March.

Gina said innovation is happening everywhere in the country, not just in science centres, universities, and laboratories, but also in industries. "It is also in townships and rural communities, which will help us to coordinate holistically and leave no one behind in using our funding instruments to support innovation.

"On our part, as the government, we are engaging with Telcos to address the digital divide between urban and rural areas and bridge the gap in innovation through connectivity," Gina said.

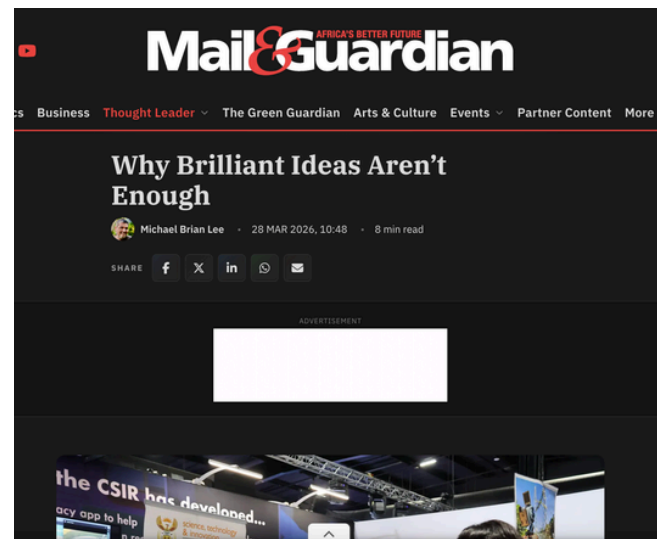
The Citizen: [Click here to read more](#)

Why brilliant ideas aren't enough

Walking through the inaugural South Africa Innovation Week (SAIW) at Nasrec last week, I saw the country's creative potential on full display. Exhibitors pitched mushroom-based pet products, goat's milk cosmetics, and apps for film production, event management, and bus and taxi logistics.

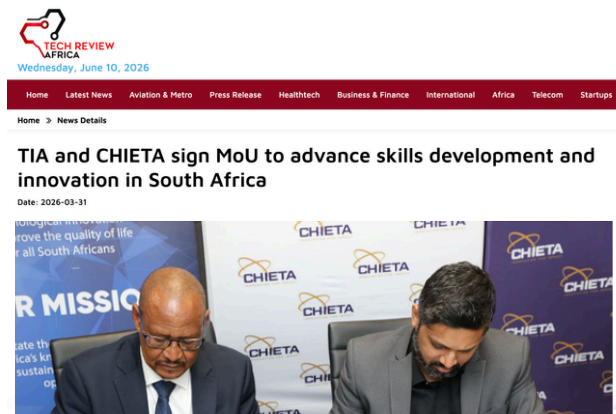
Universities showcased their technology transfer offices. Government agencies — from the South African National Space Agency to the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation to the Medical Research Council — demonstrated cutting-edge research. Stands for sector education and training authorities (SETAs) and incubators buzzed with activity.

Mail & Guardian: [Click here to read more](#)



Partnerships

TIA and INSETA join forces to drive transformation and digital growth in insurance



TIA was featured on Vuk'uzenzele after the signing of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA) to strengthen skills development and innovation in South Africa's insurance sector. The partnership aims to build a more inclusive and future-ready workforce by aligning skills development with industry needs and supporting entrepreneurs, start-ups, and SMMEs in bringing innovative solutions to market.

TIA Board Chairperson, Loyiso Tyira emphasised that the partnership reflects a more coordinated and mature

approach to collaboration, guided by the Quadruple Helix model. By bringing together government, academia, industry, and civil society, the partnership is positioned to drive inclusive growth, support national priorities, and create opportunities for youth, students, and emerging businesses.

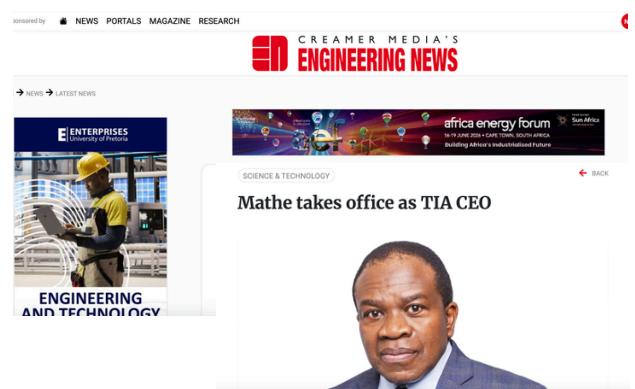
Tech Review Africa: [Click here to road more](#)

CEO appointment

Mathe takes office as TIA CEO

TIA gained media coverage on Engineering News, CNBC Africa, and IT Web after announcing Dr Titus Mathe as the new CEO. TIA Board Chairperson Loyiso Tyira expressed confidence in Dr. Mathe's capacity to guide the organisation into its next phase, highlighting his broad experience in industry, research, governance, and public-sector transformation, including positions at Eskom and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Engineering News: [Click here to road more](#)



Technology Innovation Agency announces new head



South Africa's innovation landscape is entering a new phase, as the Technology Innovation Agency ushers in fresh leadership with the appointment of Dr Titus Mathe as its new Chief Executive Officer.

He joins CNBC Africa to unpack his mandate.

CNBC Africa: [Click here to read more](#)

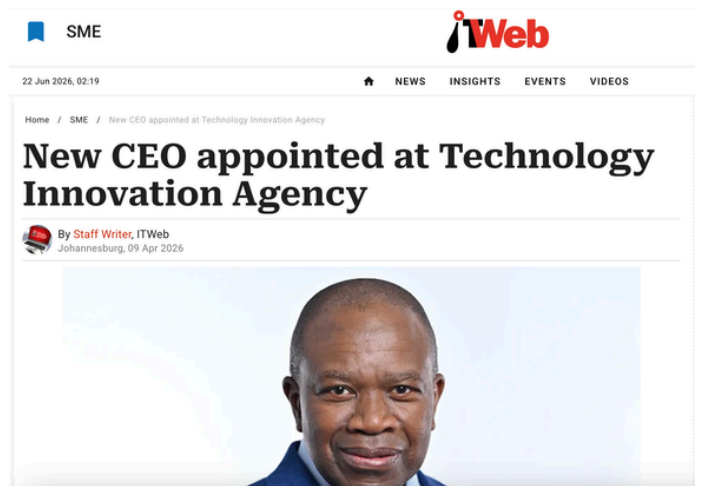
Technology Innovation Agency announces new head

New CEO appointed at Technology Innovation Agency

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) has appointed Dr Titus Mathe as its new chief executive officer (CEO), effective 1 April. Mathe replaces Ismail Abdoola, who held the CEO role in an acting capacity. In a statement, the agency says it looks forward to a new chapter of leadership, partnerships, and tangible innovation outcomes as it carries out its objectives, as outlined in the National Development Plan.

Furthermore, under new leadership, the agency plans to continue to fulfill its mission of nurturing a national system of innovation.

IT Web: [Click here to read more](#)



2026 Cleantech Innovation Programme South Africa (GCIP-SA) National Awards

Meet the 10 South African Innovators Powering Africa's Clean Future

PUBLISHED BY TTYBRANDAFRICA APRIL 11, 2026



South Africa's clean technology sector is gaining momentum as ten breakthrough innovators step into the spotlight at the 2026 Cleantech Innovation Programme South Africa (GCIP-SA) National Awards. The recognition highlights practical solutions tackling energy shortages, water scarcity and food insecurity across the country.

South Africa's clean technology sector is gaining momentum as ten breakthrough innovators step into the spotlight at the 2026 Cleantech Innovation Programme South Africa (GCIP-SA) National Awards. The recognition highlights practical solutions tackling energy shortages, water scarcity, and food insecurity across the country.

The GCIP-SA accelerator continues to push early-stage ideas toward commercial success. This year, 38 startups entered the programme, while only 10 finalists emerged after months of development, mentorship, and testing. These innovators now represent the future of South Africa's green economy.

TTY Brand Africa: [Click here to read more](#)



YOU HAVE A SAY

Whether you have a **compliment** / **complaint** / **need more information** about **our services** or **your application**, get in touch with us and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Email: CRM

customerservice@tia.org.za

Website:

Complete a form on **www.tia.org.za**

Tel: +27 (12) 472 2700



Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) was established in terms of the TIA Act, 2008 (Act No. 26 of 2008), with the objective to stimulate, intensify and exploit technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ADVANCING CLEANTECH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) is an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI). TIA is mandated through the Technology Innovation Agency Act, No. 26 of 2008, to promote the development and exploitation of discoveries, inventions, and innovations to improve the quality of life for all South Africans by bridging the innovation chasm between research and commercialisation.

TIA's objective is to support the state in stimulating and intensifying technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans through the development and exploitation of technological innovations.

TIA extends an invitation to Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) with innovative clean technology solutions to submit applications for the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP-SA) annual business accelerator and competition. The GCIP-SA Accelerator offers extensive mentoring, training, access to investors, opportunities to showcase innovations to the market, and a chance to win a cash prize and an overseas trip to compete with the best innovators globally.

UNIDO launched the second phase of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme GCIP 2.0 at COP 27 in November 2022. UNIDO sees innovation as key to mitigating and adapting to climate change. UNIDO provides a platform for technology transfer, investment mobilisation and climate partnerships to accelerate this process.

The guiding principle of UNIDO's activities is low-emission, climate-resilient development. This means promoting policies, technologies, and practices so that countries can take climate action and, in doing so, create millions of new, decent jobs.

UNDERPINNED BY THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES

- Pillar 1: Identifying, fostering, and developing cleantech innovations and businesses.
- Pillar 2: Ecosystem connectivity, policy and institutional framework strengthening.
- Pillar 3: Monitoring and evaluation and project coherence and coordination with other partner countries

GCIP-SA IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Under the GCIP 2.0 Hubs and Spokes initiative, the Accelerator will be delivered in collaboration with nine cleantech implementing partners across South Africa. These include innovation hubs, universities, and business incubators that offer tailored acceleration support, mentorship, and access to networks and finance. The implementing partners for this year's Accelerator are:

- Mafikeng Digital Innovation Hub
- Start-Up Culture
- Impact Amplifier
- Tshimologong Digital Innovation Precinct
- Propella Business Incubator
- South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre
- Uyilo e-Mobility Programme
- University of Johannesburg: Process, Energy, and Environmental Technology Station
- Snake Nation

Working together with TIA, these implementing partners will support innovators across all nine provinces, ensuring wide-reaching access and localised support throughout the programme.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

- Water Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Waste Beneficiation
- Green Buildings
- Green Transportation
- Agritech
- Advanced Materials & Chemicals
- Environmental Protection (land, sea and air)

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

- New and ground-breaking technologies in the cleantech sector
- Adaptation of existing technologies; or use existing inbound technologies in unique applications.
- Have protectable Intellectual Property
- Demonstrate a feasible concept and product with potential for commercialisation.
- Technology stage: Proof of concept up to pre-commercialisation
- Registered South African Entity

TO APPLY

- Applications must be submitted online at <https://gcip.tech/>
- Applications are open to all South Africans, preference will be given to women, youth, persons with disabilities and black entrepreneurs from previously marginalised provinces.

CLOSING DATE

Entries close 10 July 2026

ENQUIRIES

For more information contact 012 472 2760 or send an email to cleantech@tia.org.za

