



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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PRESS RELEASE: UNIVERSITIES IN TRAINING FOR COMMERCIALISATION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TO BOOST THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY

The commercialisation of university intellectual property (IP) and research and innovation presents considerable opportunities for South Africa. It would engender a positive impact on society and economic growth, and technology transfer. In partnership with and funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), THENSA will be hosting a Briefing & Preparatory Workshop for its Mentorship, Shadowing and Coaching (MSC) Programme for Senior Representatives from the Offices of Technology Transfer (OTTs). The event will take place on 7 – 8 February 2023 at The Premier Hotel in Umhlanga, Durban.

The THENSA MSC Programme for OTTs aims to provide the skills and expertise for staff OTTs to commercialise innovative research. THENSA has long advocated for building capacity in innovative research and commercialisation, establishing research clusters and communities of practice which have fostered international partnerships, enriched the local knowledge economy and secured funding for dynamic research projects. The most significant of these collaborations have been with higher education institutions affiliated with the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) in Ireland. With ongoing funding provided by the Irish Embassy in South Africa and the South African Embassy in Ireland, the THENSA MSC Programme for OTTs will build on the work from the research innovation clusters and communities of practice, specifically in the areas of Science Parks and Business Units, Space Science and the Hydrogen and the Circular Economy (Green Economy).

THENSA has earmarked the following Irish higher education institutions to serve as international mentors in the programme: Trinity College Dublin (University of Dublin), South East Technological University (SETU), Technological University of the Shannon (TUS): Midlands Midwest, Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT), University of Dublin (TU Dublin), and Atlantic Technological University (ATU). The international mentors will support THENSA in contributing to Technology Transfer capacity development and training through a bespoke Technology Transfer Capacity Development Programme, and through a mentorship programme at international

facilities. One of the aims of the programme is to establish the registration of TTOs on the international Professional Practice Board.

All the public universities in South Africa and selected institutions in Ireland, Netherlands and Germany will partner in this programme.

Warm Regards,



Dr Anshu Padayachee
CEO: Technological Higher Education Network of South African (THENSA)

