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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR HENK DE JAGER AS INTERIM CEO FOR TECHNOLOGICAL HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK SOUTH AFRICA (THENSA)**

The Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Henk de Jager as its Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1 October 2023. Professor de Jager brings a wealth of experience and expertise in his new role as Interim CEO and his leadership in THENSA's strategic direction. Professor de Jager is a highly respected figure in Education, particularly in the Higher Education sector. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Psychology from the North-West University, a Master's Diploma in Technology in Electrical Engineering from the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), and a Doctor of Technology in Education Management from the University of South Africa (UNISA).

His diverse educational background spanning nearly 33 years in Higher Education, reflects his passion for interdisciplinary learning and innovation. He began his academic career in 1989 as a Lecturer and quickly rose through the ranks, serving as Executive Dean in Engineering, Technology, Built Environment, and Information Technology at the Vaal University of Technology and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. His leadership journey continued at the Central University of Technology (CUT), where he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Academic and Research, and later as DVC Research, Innovation, and Engagement. In October 2016, he was appointed Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal of CUT, wherein he was officially appointed as the Vice-Chancellor from June 2017 until September 2021.

Currently a Senior Associate at Sereni T People Development, Professor de Jager remains deeply committed to Higher Education and has contributed significantly to strategic projects within the sector. Notably, he served as the Principal Writer of the Academic Workstream responsible for developing the Feasibility Study Report for the new University of Science and Innovation at Ekurhuleni for the Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology. He is also currently the Project Coordinator for THENSA's Technology Transfer Capacity Development Programme in collaboration with Ireland and Germany, and Advisor for the Board of Trustees of the Entebbe International University Project in Uganda.

In addition to his academic achievements and leadership roles, Professor de Jager is registered as a Professional Engineering Technologist with the Engineering Council of South Africa. He served as a Board member of Universities South Africa (USAf) and actively participated in various quality assurance audits on behalf of the Engineering Council of South Africa, the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of South Africa, and the Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training of the Kingdom of Bahrain. His research interests encompass innovation ecosystems, governance of Higher Education institutions, and strategic management and leadership in Higher Education.

Professor de Jager's track record of leadership, his commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and collaborative leadership makes him a natural fit for THENSA. During this transitional role as Interim CEO, Professor de Jager will work closely with the Board of Directors of THENSA and the staff to promote THENSA's vision and mission, and importantly the technological higher education in South Africa.

We look forward to working with Professor de Jager who is regarded as a dear friend to our organisation.

For media inquiries, please contact Khanya Mtshali at [info5@thensa.co.za](mailto:info5@thensa.co.za) or Christelle Venter, Operations Manager at [christelle@thensa.co.za](mailto:christelle@thensa.co.za) for further information.

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