



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: THENSA (Five-Year Contract Position)

The Board of Directors of the Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA) invites applications for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This is a five-year contract position. (The Board of Directors may renew the contract subject to a satisfactory performance review and the consideration of appropriate strategic factors.)

THENSA, previously known as the South African Technology Network (SATN), was rebranded in 2021 and is the representative body for technology-focused higher education institutions in South Africa and the rest of the continent. THENSA is governed by a Board of Directors comprising the Vice-Chancellors of all its Member Institutions. The activities of the organisation are led by the CEO and the THENSA Secretariat who report to the Board of Directors.

The strategic objective of THENSA is the promotion of relevant, impactful, entrepreneurial and globally competitive qualifications, which are based on Work-Integrated Learning partnerships with business, industry and research institutions locally and internationally, ensuring a vibrant economy in Africa.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provides strategic leadership, and support and manages the day-to-day affairs of THENSA. The CEO reports to the Chairperson of the THENSA Board and will be responsible for the key performance areas as listed below:

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:

- **Proving Strategic Leadership for THENSA**
 - Communicate with the Board of Directors.
 - Coordinate THENSA strategic implementations.
 - Manage and oversee the operations of the THENSA Secretariat.
 - Develop THENSA operational plan.
 - Oversee, coordinate, and facilitate the activities of THENSA projects and teams.
 - Represent and oversee the representation of THENSA in the relevant Forums.
 - Advancing the technology-focused higher education space as a niche area in the Higher Education sphere.

- **Policy analysis and implementation**
 - Devise policies and strategies that will position THENSA as a leader among similar higher education consortia.
 - Research, analyse and review HE-related policy documents.
 - Advise the THENSA Board strategically.

- **Strategic partnerships and advancement**
 - Build and strengthen relationships within the governmental environment, post-school education, corporate bodies, SETAs, community/civic bodies, etc.
 - Promote and initiate regional and international linkages and collaborations, including establishing joint ventures and funded projects.
 - Promote and monitor the image of THENSA and advocate for THENSA member institutions.
 - Engage with funders – secure projects (proposal writing and funding applications).

- **Governance and compliance management**
 - Produce the Annual Report to the THENSA Board.
 - Quality assurance and risk management.
 - Evaluate and track the success of the company in reaching its goals.

- **Financial management and sustainability of the organisation, including fundraising**

- **Human resource management**

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- A Doctoral degree or equivalent obtained from an accredited institution.
- At least 10 years of proven experience in academic management and administration at senior management level.
- A Track record in teaching, research, innovation, and community engagement commensurate with the levels of Professor or Associate Professor.
- Evidence of peer-reviewed accredited publications.
- Evidence of successful supervision of Master's and Doctoral students and other research outputs at the Professor /Associate Professor level.
- A Track record of developing and maintaining relationships with the industry, professional bodies and the national/ international community.
- Practical knowledge and experience of quality assurance processes.
- A thorough understanding of the South African Higher Education landscape.
- Proven sound financial management in an organisational setting, preferably in Higher Education.
- Evidence of successful fundraising endeavours.
- Proven human resource management skills.
- Evidence of establishing and maintaining Regional and International linkages and mobilising mutually beneficial national and international education, government, business and industry ecosystems and networks

COMPETENCIES:

- Provide Strategic Leadership
 - Excellent Interpersonal and communication skills
 - General management and people management
 - Corporate governance
 - Budget and Financial management
 - Project management
 - Writing skills
 - Networking skills
 - Quality assurance and risk management
 - Change management and organisational development
 - Knowledge of academic peer recognition processes
 - National and international trends in higher education
 - Information management systems
 - Knowledge of the NSI in South Africa
 - Building strategic alliances and partnerships
 - Personal impact, stature and credibility
 - Emotional intelligence and political sensitivity
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THENSA offers a competitive cost-to-company remuneration package.

The Commencement date will be negotiated with the successful candidate.

Applications: Interested applicants should send a detailed curriculum vitae including a letter of motivation that addresses the KPAs and requirements of this position, certified copies of academic qualifications and the names and contact details of three referees to **Mrs Christelle Venter** at e-mail: Christelle@thensa.co.za

Enquiries: Telephonic enquiries can be directed to Prof Henk de Jager, Interim CEO of THENSA on 082 8987729.

Please Note: Submission of such copies entitles THENSA to authenticate the qualifications without any further consent from the applicant. Candidates with foreign qualifications must submit a SAQA certificate of evaluation. By applying for this position, you give permission to share your information with the selection panel or people involved in the recruitment process.

Deadline for applications: 9 February 2024