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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR HENK DE JAGER AS CEO OF THE 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 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective 1 July 2024. Prof de Jager has been the Interim CEO since 1 October 2023. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise in his CEO role and leadership in THENSA's strategic direction.

Prof de Jager is highly respected in education and leadership, particularly in the higher education sector. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Psychology from 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, which has spanned nearly 35 years in higher education, reflects his passion for interdisciplinary learning and innovation. He began his academic career in 1989 as a Lecturer. He quickly rose through the ranks, serving as Executive Dean of Engineering and Technology at the Vaal University of Technology and as Executive Dean of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology at the then Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. His leadership journey continued at the Central University of Technology (CUT), where he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) of 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 and Principal from June 2017 until September 2021.

Prof de Jager is currently a Senior Associate at Sereni T People Development. He remains deeply committed to higher education and has contributed significantly to strategic projects within the

sector. Notably, he served in 2022 on 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. In 2023, he served as an advisor for the Board of Trustees of the Entebbe International University Project in Uganda. He has recently been appointed Project Coordinator for Feasibility Study: Phase 2 for the new University of Science and Innovation at Ekurhuleni, effective from 1 November 2023 until 31 October 2024.

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 and member of the executive committee of Universities in South Africa (USAf) and as chairperson of the World of Work Strategy Group of USAf. He 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 leadership track record and commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation, and collaborative leadership make him a natural fit for THENSA. He will work closely with the Board of Directors of THENSA and the staff to promote THENSA's vision and mission and, significantly, the technology-focused higher education sector in South Africa.

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

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

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