

**Launch of Manufacturing Indaba Eastern Cape to bolster investment in the province  
September 2016**

The Coega Development Corporation in the Eastern Cape recently signed a R11 billion (\$821million) investment with the Beijing Automobile International Corporation (BAIC), the biggest automotive investment in Africa in the last 40 years.

The size of this investment demonstrates confidence in the Eastern Cape as an African investment destination. This project also entrenches the province's position as an automotive hub and has the potential of deepening the component supply chain, job creation and economic development.

It is against this backdrop of increased investment and exciting growth prospects that the **Manufacturing Indaba** launches its **Eastern Cape** roadshow. General manufacturing makes up a significant portion of the provincial economy and is primarily driven by the needs of the automotive sector - the biggest manufacturing sector in the Eastern Cape.

"The Eastern Cape is an important manufacturing hub that has not yet realised its full potential," said Liz Hart, Managing Director of the **Manufacturing Indaba**.

"The aim of the **Manufacturing Indaba Eastern Cape** in Port Elizabeth on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016 is to focus on and boost the growth potential of the province's key manufacturing industry sectors and to provide a platform for interactive sessions with the prime movers of the nation's manufacturing sectors. We believe there are unexplored opportunities for growth in manufacturing in the Eastern Cape," said Hart.

Despite obvious challenges, the Eastern Cape economy is increasingly export-oriented, with great potential for growth of existing industries and the establishment of new industries. Its geographic location, quality sea and air ports, abundance of natural resources and infrastructure all bode particularly well for the growth of export-oriented industries.

The **Minister of Trade & Industry, Dr Rob Davies**, and CEOs of the nation's biggest manufacturers will address delegates at the one-day event at the Boardwalk Casino and Hotel in plenary and panel sessions. There will also be a company showcase, offering local manufacturers the opportunity to put their products and services on display for delegates.

The third annual national Manufacturing Indaba 2016 was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng and brought together business owners, industry leaders, government officials, investors, professionals and members of the media to discuss challenges and to brainstorm solutions for South Africa's re-industrialisation. Since then, provincial events are rolling out across the country including in Kwazulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

**Manufacturing Indaba Eastern Cape** boasts strategic partnerships with the Department of Trade & Industry (**the dti**), the Manufacturing Circle and key stakeholders from the Eastern Cape Province. The speakers and experts on the programme are identified based on the unique insights and perspectives they are able to share with manufacturers and policymakers to make smart and informed decisions to improve manufacturing competitiveness and grow South Africa's industrial base.

Earlier this year, **the dti** launched the 8<sup>th</sup> iteration of Industrial Policy Action Plan – (IPAP2016/17-2018/19) at the Gestro Naledi Inhlanganiso Group Foundry (NI-Forge), in Benoni, Gauteng. IPAP

2016 envisages nothing less than a massive, concerted and focused national industrial effort, intimately involving all the key stakeholders and economic partners.

“Launching IPAP 2016 emphasised the importance that government attaches to developing close cooperation with cutting-edge local industrial (and especially black-owned) companies involved not just in infrastructure development, transport and logistics, but in the widest range of technologically sophisticated, export-ready and labour-intensive sectors of the SA economy,” said Minister Rob Davies.

There are new opportunities incentives for Eastern Cape manufacturers that are ripe for picking, like the new Special Economic Zone Act Incentive Scheme, which allows qualifying investors to benefit from customs duty and VAT incentives. These will be on full display at this Eastern Cape provincial leg of the Manufacturing Indaba.

“Now, more than ever, there is a pressing need for structural change in the economy, to break out of commodity dependence and move to a more diversified base in which increasing manufacturing-based value addition, employment creation and export-intensity come to define South Africa’s growth trajectory,” said Davies.

### **PRESS RELEASE ENDS**

### **MORE ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING INDABA**

South Africa’s economy is under pressure on several fronts and business confidence is at a low. The nation’s manufacturing industries face tremendous challenges; increasing production and wage costs, a shrinking manufacturing base, supply chain challenges, and the threat of other emerging economies. The success of the nation depends on a strong and innovative manufacturing base and South Africans must continue to work together to promote prosperity through manufacturing, science and innovation.

The aim of the Manufacturing Indaba 2016 and its provincial roadshows is to focus on and boost the growth potential of key industry sectors, namely: automotive, construction, metals, forestry, paper & packaging, chemicals, aerospace & defence, industry products and services, and to provide a platform for informative and interactive sessions with the prime movers of the nation’s manufacturing sectors.

For more info on this event, visit <http://manufacturingindaba.co.za/ec/>

### **FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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**Media registration:** Prior to the event ONLY. Proof of IDENTIFICATION is compulsory at the event even if you have been approved for attendance.

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