

2018's Manufacturing Indaba Embraces 4th Industrial Revolution

Indaba to focus on Industry 4.0 and IoT for Sub-Saharan African manufacturers

Johannesburg, 14 February 2018; The Manufacturing Indaba 2018 will be hosted at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, Africa's economic hub, on the 19th and 20th of June 2018. This year's event will explore Industry 4.0, otherwise known as the "4th Industrial Revolution". Industry 4.0, together with IoT (Internet of Things), are fundamental to digital transformation in the manufacturing industry.

Industry 4.0 represents a breakthrough in manufacturing innovations, transforming product creation and company operations. The advent of smart devices enables manufacturers to communicate autonomously whereby machines communicate with each other via sensors to reduce defective products and waste. Companies can now gain access to critical, real time data by tracking the productivity and efficiency levels of employees, machinery and business operations. This ultimately allows a calculated evaluation of the entire manufacturing value chain.

In today's globalised world, companies and their industrial practices in both developed and emerging markets are urged to stay abreast of these exponential changes to remain competitive and relevant in the marketplace.

Due to inadequate accessibility and connectivity, the African continent is unable to embrace Industry 4.0 at a rate equivalent to that of the developed world. However, emerging markets are unrestrained by infrastructure legacy issues and are more versatile in dealing with change than their developed counterparts. This poses a considerable advantage for developing Sub-Saharan African countries to adopt a more receptive outlook towards Industry 4.0.

Furthermore, the event will address an array of other pressing issues within the sector, such as: strategies dedicated to growth and competitive advantage in the sector; opportunities to provide industrial players with assistance and access to finance; international trends to support the development and maintenance of a skilled workforce; opportunities and challenges facing the South African manufacturing sector within the next five years; and Intra-African Trade in the SADC region.

This year's Manufacturing Indaba, intends to raise the bar by delivering 67 influential speakers, attracting 473 conference delegates, 70 exhibition stands as well as 2283 expo visitors. In addition, 531 complimentary business matchmaking meetings will be facilitated to promote Intra-Africa trade to support Africa's growth trend of 5,5% as forecasted by the International Monetary Fund.

With a bigger venue than ever before, this year's event will see the launch of the Small Business Indaba Exhibition, aimed at small manufacturers that play a key role in the growth of Sub-Saharan Africa's manufacturing industry.

The Manufacturing Indaba remains Sub-Saharan Africa's most prestigious manufacturing event. The conference has evolved annually and has initiated significant business liaisons, forging gateways for manufacturers into new markets and exploring challenges and opportunities to promote innovation in manufacturing operations. All these factors pave the way for creating employment opportunities as well as accelerating economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

MORE ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING INDABA

The 5th annual Manufacturing Indaba will be hosted at Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg from the 19 - 20 June 2018. The event will comprise a two-day conference and exhibition and is hosted in partnership with the Department of Trade & Industry (**the dti**), the Department of Science & Technology, the Manufacturing Circle and the NCPC-SA. The event is designed specifically for private and public company representatives to hear from industry experts as they unpack challenges and find solutions for growth across the manufacturing sectors and explore regional trade into Africa. The 2015 event will launch the IoT / Industry 4.0 Conference aligned to the Manufacturing Indaba as an official side event.

For more info on this event, or to register for the Indaba, visit www.manufacturingindaba.co.za

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