



NATIONAL FOUNDRY  
TECHNOLOGY  
NETWORK



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the dti

THE DEPARTMENT  
OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
SOUTH AFRICA



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## VISION

To increase the global competitiveness of the South African foundry industry through the provision of appropriate services, in order to reduce import leakage, increase local production, and increase investment in the sector.

## MISSION

The NFTN will facilitate development of a globally competitive South African Foundry industry through appropriate skills training, technology transfer, and diffusion of state of the art technologies.

The NFTN is the culmination of a significant government and industry association-led effort; funded by the dti.





## WHAT WE DO

### **Result Area 1: Training**

Provide relevant practical and theoretical/professional training in order to increase the competitiveness of the foundry industry personnel and to ensure a constant flow of skilled and professional people entering the industry.

### **Result Area 2: Competitiveness Improvement**

The availability of technical foundry support to add value and eliminate waste, solve day-to-day foundry problems and enhance productivity is paramount to a competitive industry.

### **Result Area 3: SME development**

Emerging foundries are in dire need of business mentoring to guide and support them with improving product quality, increasing penetration of new markets, understanding cost control and selling margins.

### **Result Area 4: Innovation & Technology Transfer**

Increased R&D levels are key requirements for competitiveness and the development of competencies. Knowledge; access to knowledge and its successful use and implementation in innovative products, processes and services are becoming increasingly important for sustainable economic growth and for securing and creating employment and income opportunities.

### **Result Area 5: Stakeholder engagement and communication**

Several publicly funded organisations and government departments are targeting foundries in South Africa to both improve the performance of the foundry industry, or to meet critical strategic objectives. Generally the coordination between these various bodies needs to be improved, synergies must be identified, priorities must be agreed on, and certain activities must be pursued in a cooperative way. NFTN plays a role in this.



# WHAT MAKES IT WORK

## Operating Environment and Governance

It must be clear that NFTN is typically not implementing any physical capabilities, but is rather a network using existing service providers, as appropriate. The key ingredients of NFTN interventions are to 1) have volume impact - increasing the take-up and reaching all parties, and 2) achieve quantifiable business benefits - benefits within individual participating companies.

Communication regarding projects, call for expressions of interest, and proposals are done in association with the relevant industry associations, through the NFTN SteerCom.

Projects can be initiated in two ways, either proposed by industry through industry associations or initiated by the NFTN, based on local and global industry drivers benchmarks and identified industry needs.



# KEY NFTN COLLABORATORS

Collaborative relationships with partners from both the public and private sectors, including government agencies, supplier companies, non-profit professional societies, and academia, are necessary for the industry development.

- AFSA (Aluminium Federation of South Africa)
- AIDC (Automotive Industry Development Centre)
- Atlantis Foundries
- CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)
- DST Technology Localisation Programme
- Eskom
- Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED)
- GIZ (German International Cooperation)
- IDC (Industrial Development Corporation)
- IZASA (International Zinc Association Southern Africa)
- MerSETA
- Mintek
- Mittal Steel South Africa
- NCPC (National Cleaner Production Centre)
- SAIF (South African Institute of Foundrymen)
- Scaw South Africa
- UJ MCTS
- UNIDO SPX

NFTN is a member of the World Foundry Organisation

