EMPOWERING AFRICA'S DIGITAL FUTURE

DAY 1 - 03 June 2025	
07:30 - 08:30	**Registration and Refreshments**
08:30 - 08:40	**Moderator's Welcome |** **TBC**
08:40 - 08:50	**Organiser's Address |** **Ralf Fletcher**, CEO, Topco Media
08:50 - 09:00	**Platinum Partner Opening Address |** **Tebogo Leshope**, Acting CEO, Sentech*
09:00 - 09:10	**Host City Opening Address |** **Geordin Hill-Lewis**, Mayor, City of Cape Town*
09:10 - 09:20	**Keynote Speaker |** **Brad Smith,** President, Microsoft*
09:20 - 09:35	**Minister's Address |** **South Africa's Strategic Approach to Data Sovereignty** As South Africa emerges as a leading hub for data centres and cloud computing, the government is driving regulatory reforms to attract investment while ensuring data sovereignty and cybersecurity compliance. This address will highlight key policy initiatives, including promoting renewable energy for data facilities and fostering a secure, forward-looking digital ecosystem that supports global cloud leaders like AWS, Google, and Microsoft. Speaker: **Hon. Solly Malatsi,** Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies
	Securing and Scaling Africa's Tech Infrastructure

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Time	Session
09:35 - 10:10 Hosted by **Sentech** SENTECH connecting You	**Panel Discussion |Powering Africa's Digital Future: The Role of Data Centres in Tech Transformation** As Africa rapidly embraces digital transformation, data centres are emerging as the backbone of its technological growth. This discussion will explore how data centres are enabling Africa's connectivity, providing critical infrastructure for cloud services, AI, IoT, and big data analytics. Panellists: ● **Wabo Majavu**, Founder, WiTech Africa* ● **Ravi Bhat**, CTO, Microsoft* ● Senior Representative, Sentech*
10:10 - 10:50	**Panel Discussion | Cybersecurity at the Edge: How AI and Machine Learning Are Protecting Businesses from IoT-Driven Threats** While the Internet of Things (IoT) continues to expand, so do the vulnerabilities businesses face from an ever-growing attack surface. This panel will delve into the role of AI and machine learning in enhancing cybersecurity at the edge, where critical data is generated and processed. Experts will discuss how advanced technologies are enabling businesses to safeguard IoT devices and networks. Panellists: ● **Chipo Mushwana,** Chief Information Officer, Nedbank***** ● **Ajen Mothee**, Head of Innovation, Old Mutual Personal Finance ● **Rishard Baderoon**, Founder, SoSecure Group
10:50 - 11:00	**Fast Track Networking |** Turning Conversations into Connections
11:00 - 11:20	**NETWORKING BREAK** | Recharge & Refresh
	Transforming Industries: Data, Law, and Communication
11:25 - 11:30	**Power Talk |Nivi Groger**, Founder, iMe*

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11:30 - 12:10 Hosted by **iME**	**Panel Discussion |Revolutionising Communication: Sustainable Streaming and Video Calls in a Hyper-Connected World** As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the environmental impact of technology is under scrutiny. This panel will explore how the rise of streaming and video calls is transforming communication while focusing on sustainability. Experts will discuss the role of green technologies in reducing the carbon footprint of digital communication, from optimising data centres to energy-efficient streaming solutions. The conversation will highlight how these innovations not only enhance user experiences but also drive sustainable opportunities in remote work, education, and entertainment, paving the way for a more eco-conscious, hyper-connected future. Panellists: ● **Nivi Groger,** Founder, iME* ● **Mbuso Khoza**, Chief Technology Officer, iME* ● **Talita Boodhram**, Chief Impact Officer, MiDesk Global* ● **Kevin Trethewey**, Enterprise AI:Head of Software Engineering, SandTech*
12:10 - 12:50 Hosted by **Sentech**	**Panel Discussion|Closing the Digital Divide: The Future of Broadband Connectivity in South Africa** This discussion will highlight the exciting opportunities for expanding broadband connectivity across South Africa. With a focus on innovative solutions and future technologies, the panel will explore how improving internet access can drive economic growth, enhance education, and empower communities. By bridging the digital divide, South Africa can unlock a more connected, inclusive, and prosperous future for all. Panellists: ● **Gift Zowa**, CEO, Broadband Infraco* ● **Serigne Dioum**, Group Chief Fintech Officer, MTN* ● Sentech Representative*
12:50 - 12:53	**Power Talk |Yaw Dwomoh**, CEO, The Adhive Group

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12:53 - 13:05 Hosted by **The Adhive Group**	**Fireside Chat |The Death Of Vanilla Marketing** Traditional marketing is dead. In its place? A new wave of hyper-targeted, tech-powered, and insight-driven engagement. Discover how The Hive are ditching the generic approach and embracing marketing that actually moves the needle. Speaker: **Shannon Naicker**, Chief Innovation Officer, The Adhive Group
13:05 - 14:05	**LUNCH BREAK |** Fuel Up and Connect
14:05 - 14:45	**Panel Discussion|Global Alliances, Local Impact: Strengthening Africa's Digital Economy Through Strategic Partnerships** In an increasingly interconnected world, Africa's digital economy is set for transformation through strategic global partnerships. This session explores how cross-border collaboration, investment, and knowledge-sharing are accelerating technological growth, fostering innovation, and creating new opportunities for businesses across the continent. Discover how multinational alliances can drive sustainable progress, bridge digital gaps, and position Africa as a leader in the global digital landscape. Panellists: ● **City Of Cape Town Rep*** ● **Prof. Paul Morrison**, Founder of iDare2Inspire* ● **Maha Jouini**, Vice President, Agence Francophone et Africaine de l'Intelligence (AFRIA)

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14:45 - 15:00	**Fireside Chat |The Evolving Role of Lawtech in Modernising Legal Services and Improving Access** Lawtech is revolutionising the legal industry by enhancing the accessibility and efficiency of legal services. With the rise of digital platforms, automated document generation, and streamlined workflows, legal professionals can deliver faster, more cost-effective services. This session delves into how lawtech is transforming the delivery of legal services, making them more accessible to individuals and businesses while improving operational efficiency within the legal sector. Speakers**:** • **Catherine-Jane Paulse,** CEO, Briefco • **Priyanka Raath**, Senior Associate, ENS
15:00 - 15:15	**Minister's Address: AI for Health: Transforming South Africa's Medical Landscape** In this address, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation will explore how artificial intelligence is revolutionising healthcare in South Africa. From enhancing diagnostics and personalised medicine to optimising healthcare operations, AI is paving the way for a healthier nation. Discover the government's initiatives and policies aimed at integrating AI technologies to improve patient outcomes and ensure accessible, affordable healthcare for all South Africans. Speaker: **Hon. Blade Nzimande,** Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation*
Pitching Battle | Top Tech Startups Battle it out	
15:15 - 15:55	**Pitching Battle | It's time for the showdown!** 10 pre-selected tech startup founders will step into the spotlight to deliver 1-minute elevator pitches that showcase their groundbreaking innovations. After these pitches, our esteemed panel of judges will deliberate and select the top 3, who will advance to the grand finale on Day 2, where the ultimate winner will be crowned. Finalists: • Judging Investor Panel: •
15:55 - 16:00	**Moderator's Closing**
19:00 - 22:00	**AWARDS FUNCTION**

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DAY 1 END

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DAY 2 - 04 June 2025	
07:30 - 08:30	**Registration and Refreshments**
08:30 - 08:40	**Moderator's Welcome | TBC**
08:40 - 08:50	**Sentech Opening Address | Itumeleng Segaloe**, Chief Strategy Officer, Sentech*
08:50 - 09:00	**Minister's Address:** **From Policy to Practice: Accelerating National Digital Skills Programmes for Economic Growth** A deep dive into how South Africa is turning strategy into action through nationwide digital skills programmes, partnerships with institutions, and targeted initiatives to boost youth employment and innovation. Minister Gungubele shares lessons from the launch of the Digital Skills Forum and the importance of building collaborative ecosystems for sustainable digital transformation. Speaker: **Hon. Mondli Gungubele,** Deputy Minister of Communication & Digital Technology*
Powering Progress: AI, Access & Automation	
09:00 - 09:40	**Panel Discussion | Unlocking Connectivity Across Africa: The Strategic Role of Satellite Infrastructure** As Africa drives toward inclusive digital transformation, satellite infrastructure is emerging as a powerful enabler of universal connectivity. This panel will explore how next-generation satellite technologies are bridging the digital divide, reaching underserved communities, and complementing terrestrial networks. Experts will discuss the strategic importance of satellites in expanding broadband access, supporting national development goals, and enabling reliable service delivery across vast and remote regions. The conversation will also unpack commercial opportunities, regulatory frameworks, and the future role of satellites in powering Africa's digital economy. Panellists: ● **Dejan Kastelic,** Group Chief Technology Officer, Vodacom* ● **Calvo Mawela**, Group CEO, Multichoice* ● Sentech Representative*

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09:40 - 09:55 Hosted by **GoSolr**	**Tech Demo | The State of Solar in 2025 – Why AI is Driving Solar Change** AI is no longer just a buzzword — it's powering a new era of solar innovation. In this tech-driven session, GoSolr unpacks how artificial intelligence is closing key gaps in renewable energy systems, boosting efficiency, and reshaping the way South Africans consume and control solar power. From "The Brain" to broader energy trends, this talk explores how local advancements compare globally, what's next for the country's energy resilience, and why intelligent solar tech is essential for a sustainable, consumer-centric future. Speakers: ● **Andrew Middleton**, CEO, GoSolr ● **Patrick Narbel,** CTO, GoSolr
09:55 - 10:15 Hosted by **XLink**	**Fireside Chat | Behind the Tap: The Technology Powering Africa's Payment Ecosystems** Ever wondered what happens behind a simple tap or swipe? This session takes you under the hood of modern payment ecosystems to explore the technology enabling secure, real-time transactions across Africa. From orchestration layers and network connectivity to failover systems and smart terminals, discover how tech is driving seamless interactions between banks, retailers, and fintechs—making payment experiences faster, safer, and smarter. Speakers: ● **Andrew Jubane**, Chief of Staff, XLink* ● **Mpho Sadiki**, Group Managing Director, Network International*
10:10 - 10:25 Hosted by **Pula Management**	**Tech Demo |Workforce 2.0: Adapting Human Potential in the Age of AI** As AI reshapes industries, the future of work hinges on how well we adapt human potential to meet new demands. This session explores how organisations can future-proof their workforce through reskilling, agile talent strategies, and a culture of continuous learning—ensuring people remain at the centre of progress in an increasingly automated world. Speaker: **Rita Sibanda**, Co-Founder, Pula Management*

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10:25 - 11:00	**Panel Discussion |Smart Data, Smart Futures: Accelerating Inclusive Growth Through AI, Cloud, and Earth Tech** In a world where data is the new gold, how can Africa mine it responsibly to fuel inclusive economic growth? This session explores the intersection of AI, cloud infrastructure, and environmental intelligence in shaping the continent's digital future. From precision agriculture to financial systems, discover how scalable technologies and cross-sector collaboration can bridge the divide between tech innovation and real-world impact. Panellists: ● **Rashika Ramlal,** Executive Director, AWS* ● **Prof. Moses Azong Cho**, Chief Scientist and Research Group Leader, CSIR ● **Manav Daby**, Data and AI Specialist, Google Cloud
11:00 - 11:15 Hosted by **LexisNexis** LexisNexis	**Tech Demo|LexisNexis Presents: Document Automation for the Modern Legal Practice** From contracts to compliance, automation is reshaping how legal teams handle documents. This demo showcases how LexisNexis' document automation tools simplify repetitive workflows, reduce drafting errors, and accelerate turnaround times. Watch as we turn a complex document process into a streamlined, tech-driven solution—freeing up time for higher-value legal work. Speaker: **Terrance Naidoo**, Chief Product Officer, LexisNexis*
11:15 - 11:25	**Fast Track Networking**
11:25 - 11:45	**NETWORKING BREAK**	Recharge & Refresh
	Building Smarter Futures: Innovation in Education, Experience, and Industry

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11:45 - 12:00	**Fireside Chat |Gamified Learning: Transforming Skills Development for a Future-Ready Workforce** As the world of work evolves, so too must the way we equip people with the skills they need to thrive. This panel explores how gamification is revolutionising education and skills development—turning traditional training into dynamic, interactive experiences. From classrooms to corporate learning, game-based approaches are helping to build digital fluency, critical thinking, and financial confidence in ways that are accessible, engaging, and effective. Join leading voices in education, tech, and workforce development as we uncover how playful design can deliver serious impact in preparing Africa's future workforce. Panellists: ● **Akhil Boddu**, Co-Founder & COO at Zaio Institute of Technology ● **Kobus Louw**, Founder & CEO, Digemy
12:00 - 12:15 Hosted by **Africa Data Centres** **Africa** DataCentres	**Tech Demo | Building Africa's Edge in the Global Cloud Race** Africa is not just catching up — it's positioning to lead. In this session, explore how Africa Data Centres is shaping a future-ready digital ecosystem through secure, scalable, and sustainable infrastructure. From powering innovation hubs to enabling cloud sovereignty, discover how Africa's edge is being built — and why the world should pay attention. Speaker: **Dr Angus Hay,** Regional Executive South Africa, Africa Data Centres*
12:15 - 12:55 Hosted by **ABSA** (absa)	**Panel Discussion |Women, Wealth, and the Web: Bridging the Digital Gender Gap in Finance** Empowering women in technology is not just a moral imperative—it's an economic one. This panel delves into actionable strategies for closing the digital gender gap in finance, spotlighting initiatives like Absa's collaboration with Women in Tech South Africa and the Philippi Village Learning Centre. Discover how targeted digital skills training, strategic partnerships, and inclusive policies are equipping women and youth with the tools to thrive in the tech-driven financial landscape. Join us to explore how fostering gender diversity in tech can drive innovation, inclusivity, and shared success in Africa's financial sector. Panellists:

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