



the dti

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

What is new at the Department of Trade and Industry?

The Future Industrial Production & Technologies (FIP&T) unit was established late 2017 and functions as a business unit within the Industrial Development Division (IDD) of the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti). This unit is mandated to develop transversal strategies and policies aligned to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) to address key challenges of inclusive economic and industrial growth, and raise the share of employment in manufacturing in South Africa. This means the unpacking and identifying of all the disruptive impacts of the 4IR on existing value chains, the employment landscape and also grasping the potential technological and innovation opportunities for the local economy.

On-going participation in international research ensures that the unit is updated with all the realities associated with the 4IR. In particular, the FIP&T unit is involved in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Shaping the Future of Production Systems initiative. Two focus areas include the Country Readiness for the Future of Production programme which analyses how well countries are positioned today to shape and benefit from the changing nature of production in the future; and the Employment and Skills for the Future of Production programme which aims to understand the length and depth of the adjustment period of employment and re-skilling requirements, in the context of regional and global value chains.

Early South African areas of response

- Aggressive technology acquisition, transfer and diffusion;
- Securing inward investment from global OEMs in key strategic value chains to build global competitive capabilities [e.g. Mining and mining capital equipment; fuel cells; aerospace and defence]
- Stepped up research and development and commercialisation efforts, led by the DST and its institutions, in close collaboration with **the dti**
- A much stronger institutional architecture to support technology transfer - building on excellent examples like the Technology Localisation Implementation Unit at the CSIR
- Strong institutional arrangements and programmes to support innovation: tax incentives to encourage acquisition and innovation in production capabilities, new systems, processes, products and exports.



Tel: +27 71 608 9854
Email: 4IR@thedti.gov.za
www.thedti.gov.za/industrial_development/fipt.jsp

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