



Dear Colleagues,

2019 was a very important year for the South African Technology Network (SATN) transformation strategy, which has been underway since 2018. Our decision to rebrand and reposition the SATN as THENSA (Technological Higher Education Network South Africa) was a result of the collective commitment of our member institutions to the challenges and opportunities that we have to respond to.

Having reviewed our vision, mission, strategic goals and objectives, we believe that we are on course to deliver on the goals we have set out for ourselves over the next five years. At the heart of our model are the values of *quality* and *sustainability* in everything that we do. We aspire to be recognised for our technological focus and our capacity for teamwork to ensure that we constantly aim to respond to our local and global challenges.

In this regard, I am pleased to share with you our purpose statement, new vision, mission, strategic goals and values.



PURPOSE STATEMENT

The SATN/THENSA is a catalyst consortium that supports technology-focused member institutions in achieving their mandates by:

- Capitalising on the collective strength of the member institutions;
- Creating national and international partnerships for transformation in education; and
- Building capacity to achieve social and economic impact.

Thus, enabling member institutions to conduct research and innovation with real-world impact and produce work-ready graduates and entrepreneurs who become creative contributors in a global society.

VISION

SATN/THENSA will be recognised as a vibrant, innovative consortium for advancing technology-focused institutions with a transformative societal impact.

MISSION

SATN/THENSA's mission is to facilitate:

- Leadership, advocacy and best practice amongst its members and stakeholders;
- Quality education to support globally competitive, future-ready graduates and entrepreneurs;
- Impactful research and innovation toward sustainable societies; and
- The expansion of a national and global innovation ecosystem.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The SATN/THENSA has seven strategic goals, namely:

- To provide transformative leadership and promote best practice;
- To act as an advocacy and lobbying agency for the consortium;
- To be a positive catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development;
- To promote and enable impactful real-world research and innovation;
- To mobilise mutually beneficial national and international education, government, business and industry ecosystems and networks;
- To promote quality, technology-based education and training for the world of work; and
- To increase membership and funding sources to ensure the sustainability of SATN/THENSA.

VALUES

The SATN/THENSA's work is underpinned by the followed shared values:

- **Integrity**
We conduct our work with honesty and the highest level of quality and we have open and transparent engagements with all stakeholders.
- **Respect**
We have respect for the mission differentiation amongst our member institutions.
- **Collaboration**
We foster a collaborative ethos between our members, partners and networks.
- **Innovation**
We nurture a culture of entrepreneurship, agility and innovation within our sphere of influence.
- **Responsiveness**
We are responsive to regional and national imperatives.
- **Inclusion and transformation**
We promote inclusion and transformation within the sector.
- **Commitment**
We are committed to caring for our communities and ensuring that our activities contribute to a better world.

We have framed our strategy within the ambitions set out in the National Development Plan (NDP), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) most closely related to our work, and moreover, we reaffirm our adherence to the Constitution of South Africa and its promise to the citizens. We are acutely aware of both the challenges and the opportunities that the 4IR will present, as well as the fact that we will have to adapt swiftly to these matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, the Vice-Chancellors of the thirteen member institutions, including our associate members (international partners) and strategic partners for their contributions towards repositioning the organisation to meet the challenges of the new decade. In addition, making a positive contribution to community wellbeing, education and the employability of at-risk groups, remain at the top of our list of priorities.

Finally, we are grateful to our sponsors and donors for their continued support and belief in us and we look forward to working with you to achieve the goals set out in our new strategic framework.

Prof Lourens Van Staden
Chairperson: SATN/THENSA