



DEAR STAKEHOLDER,

We are excited to announce that the South African Technology Network (SATN) is in the process of rebranding. Our new name and revised strategy are part of our deliberate repositioning of the organisation to emphasise the increased membership, strategic partners, commitment, strength and focus of our higher education network.

After ten years of delivering quality, technology-focussed higher education, teaching and learning programmes, work integrated learning, as well as research and innovation we reviewed our strategy and are committed to rededicating ourselves to the higher education priorities of our country and globally for the new decade. The rebranding builds on many improvements we have made to programmes, projects and special events that we have hosted over the past ten years as SATN.

We want to thank you for joining us on this **“Journey of Discovery”** over the past decade and we are confident that with your continued support, we will be able to expand upon all our projects, accomplish local and global growth objectives, as well as foster and develop new local, national and international relationships. We will of course continue to execute new projects, with the same if not more of the excitement, brilliance and professionalism you have come to associate with us.



You will start to see changes to our identity, systems, website, social media profiles, as well as to our new visual brand signature as we proceed with the legal process of changing our name. We have scheduled the official launch of the reimagined and renamed SATN, now THENSA (Technological Higher Education Network South Africa) at our upcoming 11th International Conference in October 2020.

As we start this process, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our member institutions, local and international partners, stakeholders, strategic partners and sponsors for their belief in us and support thus far. As we venture into this exciting phase of growth, new initiatives and partnerships, we are confident that our new brand better matches what we have become since 2008: a provider of thoughtful technology that modernises aspects of the work of higher education, while better connecting scholars locally and internationally to each other and their institutions. In this way we aim to provide technological solutions to the challenges faced by our country, the continent and globally.

Some of the exciting new initiatives to look forward to in this first year of the new decade are:

- The 11th International Conference in October 2020;
- The Irish-South African Research Colloquium in Cork Ireland in June 2020;
- The UIF Entrepreneurship training programme ongoing from February;
- The DHET PhD programme and mobility programme in partner institutions in the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, India, Ireland, Netherlands, Singapore, Sweden etc.;
- The VC study visit to India; and
- The Higher Education Reform Expert Initiative with partnerships in Spain, Italy, Ireland and Africa

Needless to say, it was time for a change. Please visit our website to view our new strategic objectives and our message from the Chairperson of the SATN/THENSA, Prof Lourens van Staden, where he outlines our vision, mission and strategic objectives over the next five years.

Regards,

Dr Anshu Padayachee

Chief Executive Officer, SATN / THENSA