PAVING THE WAY FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE

BLACK CIRCLE GROUP
the specialist strategy company

BUILDING SMARTER CITIES, TOWNS & VILLAGES CONFERENCE

Introduction

The Black Circle Group has been established on the premise that knowledge, and its application in managing, organising and growing resources at both the macro and micro-levels, is the main driver of economic progress.

We believe that Africa's competitiveness requires a dynamic public and private sector which recognises that the exchange of ideas, and a continuous challenging of accepted norms and values, is critical in a global economy, where ideas and views about the drivers of progress and prosperity shift rapidly.

Smart Cities Conference

Black Circle Consulting is organising a groundbreaking conference on South African Provinces, Cities, Towns, and Rural Settlements within the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the transition to smart provinces, smart cities, smart towns, and smart rural settlements.

This 2-day conference will be held with the support of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CogTa), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA), and the South African Cities Network (SACN).

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Scope of the Conference

This conference will provide a platform for experts, stakeholders, and decision-makers to gather, deliberate, and make recommendations to the government through CogTa, National Treasury, and SALGA. These discussions and recommendations will focus on the legislative and policy changes necessary to enable the development of smart provinces, smart cities, smart towns, and smart rural settlements will be developed. Subsequently, guidelines and manuals tailored to the South African political, social, and economic context will be produced.

The conference seeks to synthesize various aspects related to smart cities and towns, culminating in the establishment of a proposed Reference Centre for Smart Cities and Towns projects in South Africa.

Objectives

The "Smart Provinces, Smart Cities, Smart Towns, and Smart Rural Settlements" Conference will centre on addressing the unique challenges and opportunities presented within the South African context to shape South Africa's transition to a "Smart SA®".

It aims to be an ongoing forum that facilitates the exchange of ideas, best practices, and innovative solutions to promote sustainable urban and rural development, harnessing digital technologies and data-driven strategies, and the transformation of South African cities, towns, and major rural settlements into drivers of economic growth and social transformation.

Conference Programme

The Conference is scheduled to be held in Johannesburg in September 2024.

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Conference Outcomes

- **A consensus on Smart SA®.** This will be a culmination of engagements with experts and practitioners and community surveys to canvas the views and feelings of South Africans about what the future of their provinces, cities, and rural settlements should look like.

- **Guidelines and Manuals**: Following the Conference, comprehensive guidelines and manuals for the development of smart provinces, smart cities, smart towns, and smart rural settlements will be developed and specifically tailored to unique South African circumstances.

- **Legislative and Policy Recommendations:** The Forum will be a platform for expert discussions and the formulation of recommendations for necessary legislative and policy changes to foster smart urban and rural development.

- **Knowledge Exchange:** To foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders, experts, and government officials to encourage innovation and effective governance in the context of a transition towards Smart SA®.

Conference Unpacked

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Conference Unpacked

- **Keynote Speakers and Panel Discussions:** Renowned international and local experts will be invited to deliver keynote addresses and participate in panel discussions.

- **Workshops and Technical Sessions:** There will be workshops and technical sessions which will provide attendees with practical knowledge and tools to implement smart initiatives.

- **Exhibition Area:** There will be a dedicated focus on unique South African solutions, and the showcasing of cutting-edge technologies and solutions from industry leaders across the globe.

- **Policy Roundtables:** To organize focused roundtable discussions to address legislative and policy challenges, and to propose actionable solutions.

- **Leaders Conversations:** Leaders from government, local government, private sector, and social partners will be one of the sessions to look forward to.

- **Networking Opportunities and Gala Dinner:** Networking sessions will be available fostering collaboration among government officials, researchers, industry representatives, and civil society. A Gala Dinner will be the highlight of the networking sessions.

Participants

1. National Government (Presidency and Ministers)

2. Provincial Government (Premiers and MEC of Finance and Local Government)

3. Mayors, Municipal Managers and City Managers

4. Chief Financial Officers

5. Chief Technology Officers, Chief Information Officers, and Chief Data Officers

6. Heads of Smart Cities and Innovation

7. City/Regional/Town/Rural Development Planners

8. Transport Planners

9. Economic Planners

10. Chief Engineers

11. Education and Health Planners

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Sponsorship Packages

We invite sponsors to support this transformative initiative and become part of building smarter cities and towns in South Africa. Sponsorship options range from Headline sponsorship at R3.5 million to Bronze sponsorship at R500,000, providing diverse levels of exposure and engagement throughout the conference.

Headline Sponsor: R3.5m

Platinum Sponsorship: R2 million each (3 slots available)

Gold Sponsorship: R1.5 million each (5 slots available)

Silver Sponsorship: R750 000 each 10 slots available)

Bronze Sponsorship: R500 000 each (25 Slots available)

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Sponsorship Packages

Present potential returns:
- Brand Exposure: Reach a diverse audience through extensive branding.
- Thought Leadership: Position your company as a leader in smart initiatives.
- Networking: Access decision-makers, industry leaders, and government officials.
- Collaboration Opportunities: Foster partnerships for future projects and investments

All sponsorship packages include networking opportunities, participation in the Gala Dinner, and post-conference follow-up discussions.

Headline Sponsorship:
R3.5 million
Conference registration area branding
- Naming rights to the event – "Brought to you by"
- Branding in the plenary room – screens
- Keynote Address
- Panel discussion participation (Moderator)
- Company/Product showcase (5-7 min)
- Logo on all online correspondence
- Logo on the event website
- 200-word profile on the event website
- Sponsor welcome mailer
- 2 Marketing mailshots to participants' database (1 prior and 1 post-event) Content to be provided by the sponsor
- Advertorial plus one full-page advert in the post-conference report
Five complimentary conference passes.
- Priority seating at the Gala Dinner.

Platinum Sponsorship:
R2 million each
(3 slots available)
Conference registration area branding
- Branding in plenary room – screens
- Panel discussion participation
- Company/Product showcase (5-7 min)
- Logo on all online correspondence
- Logo on the event website
- 150-word profile on the event website
- Sponsor welcome mailer
- 2 Marketing mailshots to participants' database (1 prior and 1 post-event) Content to be provided by the sponsor
- One full-page advert in the post-conference report
Four complimentary conference passes.
- Priority seating at the Gala Dinner.

Gold Sponsorship: R1.5 million each
(5 slots available)

- Conference registration area branding
- Branding on screens in the plenary room
- Panel discussion participation
- Company/Product showcase (5-7 min)
- Logo on all online correspondence
- Logo on the event website
- 100-word profile on the event website
- Sponsor welcome mailer
- 2 Marketing mailshots to participants' database (1 prior and 1 post-event) Content to be provided by the sponsor
- One full-page advert in the post-conference report
- Three complimentary conference passes.

Silver Sponsorship: R750,000 each
(10 slots available)
- Conference registration area branding
- Branding in plenary room – screens
- Company/Product showcase (5-7 min)
- Logo on all online correspondence
- Logo on the event website
- 50-word profile on the event website
- Sponsor welcome mailer
- 2 Marketing mailshots to participants' database (1 prior and 1 post-event) Content to be provided by the sponsor
- 1-page advert in the post-conference report
Two complimentary conference passes.

Bronze Sponsorship: R500,000 each
(25 slots available)

- Logo inclusion in select conference materials.
- Bronze-level recognition in promotional materials.
- Networking session sponsorship.
- Recognition on the conference website.
- One complimentary conference pass

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Conclusion

- The "Smart Cities and Towns Development Conference" is a pioneering effort to shape South Africa's future urban landscape and to pave the way for a more sustainable, efficient, and connected urban future in South Africa.

- By bringing together industry experts, policymakers, and stakeholders, we aim to catalyze progress towards creating smart, connected, and sustainable cities and towns.

- Join us in this forward-looking journey towards a smarter and brighter South Africa.

- Together, we can make a difference in the lives of millions while building a prosperous and inclusive nation for generations to come.