

Sponsorship & Partnerships

Inaugural ST&I Public Lecture 2026

Partner with South Africa's National ST&I Platform

Mail & Guardian
AFRICA'S BEST READ

“

*We cannot change the past..
We can shape the future.*



— **ST&I** —
**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
& INNOVATION
BUSINESS FORUM**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Landmark National Event



~400

Senior Delegates



3

Distinguished
Speakers



2026

Inaugural
Edition

The 2026 Inaugural ST&I Public Lecture, presented in strategic partnership with Mail & Guardian, will pursue the following objectives:



Present and advocate a public-private partnership model for science and innovation



Mark the official public launch of the ST&I Business Forum as a nationally significant policy advocacy organisation



Advance thought leadership on the role of ST&I institutions in driving South Africa's regional economic development and urban industrialisation.

ABOUT THE ST&I BUSINESS FORUM

Who We Are

The ST&I Business Forum is a business policy advocacy organisation committed to promoting inclusive urban economic development through Science, Technology and Innovation.

A member-based NPO governed under the Companies Act (No. 71 of 2008), the Forum holds a dual mandate:

- ✓ Promote inclusive economic growth through Science, Technology and Innovation.
- ✓ Drive industrial innovation as a catalyst for urban development and re-industrialisation.

SIX CORE AIMS



Champion the Ekurhuleni
University of Applied
Science and Innovation



Promote a national urban
innovation ecosystem across
8 metros and SEZs



Advance ST&I-driven
Public-Private Partnerships
(PPPs)



Advocate for a dual education
system combining learning
with workplace experience



Promote equity equivalent
investment programmes
for ST&I initiatives



Promote a public venture
capital fund for ST&I-driven
enterprises

THE EVENT – INAUGURAL ST&I PUBLIC LECTURE 2026



Theme

A Public-Private Partnership Model for Science and Innovation



Date

8 July 2026



Time

17:00 – 20:00



Venue

City of Ekurhuleni (Venue TBC)



Delegates

Approximately 400 senior delegates



Media Partner

Mail & Guardian

PROGRAMME & SPEAKERS



Minister of DSTI

KEYNOTE

Cabinet-level keynote address setting the national policy context.



Themed Speaker

ACADEMIC / EXPERT

Subject matter expert presenting global evidence on how ST&I catalyses regional economic growth and drive industrialisation.



Industry Voice

PLATINUM PARTNER

The Anchor Sponsor representative delivers the industry perspective, articulating the business case for corporate investment in ST&I.

TARGET AUDIENCE & REACH

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE (~400)



C-suite and board-level executives



Government ministers, MECs and senior officials



Metro mayors and municipal leadership



University vice-chancellors and academic leaders



Professional bodies and industry associations



ST&I Business Forum members

MEDIA & DIGITAL REACH



Full Mail & Guardian editorial coverage



Pre- and post-event feature articles & interviews



ST&I Business Forum social media channels



ST&I Lecture Podcast — post-event distribution



National press release distribution



ST&I Forum website sponsor recognition

STRATEGIC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP



What the Partnership Delivers



Pre-Event Coverage

Mail & Guardian runs editorial content in the lead-up, building national awareness around the event theme.



Sponsor Interviews & Feature Articles

Platinum and Gold sponsors receive a dedicated Mail & Guardian interview and published feature article.



Post-Event Reporting

M&G covers keynote highlights, policy positions, and commitments made. Sponsors are named throughout.



Press Release Distribution

All official press releases issued before, during, and after the event are distributed across the full South African media landscape.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES – OVERVIEW

BENEFIT	PLATINUM Anchor Partner	GOLD Major Partner	SILVER Supporting Partner
 Delegate Tickets	30	10	5
 Speaking Slot	Main Programme	Hot Engagement	–
 Media Interview / Feature	✓	✓	–
 VIP Speaker Reception	✓	✓	–
 Logo / Brand Placement	Premium – all	All material	All material
 Delegate Name Tags	All 400	–	–
 Podcast Mention	✓	–	–
 Working Group Access	✓	–	–
 Press Release Inclusion	Named	Named	Named
 Website Recognition	Founding Sponsor	Founding Sponsor	Listed

Full benefits details on following slides • Enquire: sti-lecture.com/enquiry • info@stibusinessforum.co.za

PLATINUM PARTNER

Anchor Partner

Premier Strategic Partnership

Broadest brand visibility and event participation footprint.
Exclusive Anchor Partner speaking slot.



Speaking slot in the main event programme



Access to Minister's Post-Event Dinner



Full Mail & Guardian interview and feature article



Premium logo placement — all event material & collateral



Branded delegate name tags (all 400 attendees)



On-site promotional opportunities & branded seating



Social media mentions and digital profile



Website recognition as founding sponsor



Inclusion in all press releases



Active contribution to ST&I Business Forum core programmes



30 complimentary delegate tickets



VIP pre-event speaker reception



ST&I Lecture Podcast sponsor mention



Invitation to ST&I Forum Working Group engagement

GOLD PARTNER

Major Partner

High-Visibility Partnership

Strong keynote engagement, multi-channel promotion and Mail & Guardian editorial coverage.



Mail & Guardian

interview and feature article



Host engagement

with keynote speakers



VIP pre-event speaker

reception & access to
Minister's post-event dinner



Logo placement across

all event material



10 complimentary

delegate tickets



On-site promotional

opportunities



Social media mentions

and digital profile



Website recognition

as founding sponsor



Inclusion in all

press releases

SILVER PARTNER

SILVER PARTNER

Supporting Partner

Institutional Visibility

Visibility across the event platform and communications rollout.



Logo placement across all event material



On-site promotional opportunities



Social media mentions



Website recognition



Inclusion in press releases



5 complimentary delegate tickets

WHY BECOME A **SILVER PARTNER?**

- ✓ Brand visibility across all event material
- ✓ Access to senior government, academic and industry stakeholders
- ✓ Social media and website recognition
- ✓ Inclusion in official event communications and press releases
- ✓ On-site promotional opportunities
- ✓ 5 Complimentary Delegate Tickets



Ideal for organisations seeking visibility and strategic stakeholder engagement.

NEXT STEPS – HOW TO PARTNER WITH US

01



Express Interest

Contact us by email or phone to indicate your preferred sponsorship tier. We will schedule an introductory call.

02



Partnership Discussion

We meet in person or virtually to discuss your objectives, customise the package, and address any questions.

03



Sponsorship Agreement

A formal Sponsorship Agreement sets out terms, deliverables, and payment schedule. A 50% deposit confirms your slot.

04



Brand Integration

Our team works with your comms and marketing teams to integrate your brand across all event assets and media activity.

05



Event Day & Beyond

We host your team at the event, fulfil all sponsor deliverables, and provide a post-event report including media metrics.



Early commitment is strongly encouraged.

The **Platinum Anchor Partner slot** is exclusive and will be allocated on a first-confirmed basis.



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PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER