

IRM Hubs:

Strengthening TVET colleges' role in local economic development

As part of its broader economic inclusion work aimed at improving youth employability, supporting entrepreneurship, and strengthening participation in local economies, the National Business Initiative (NBI) is implementing the Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative.

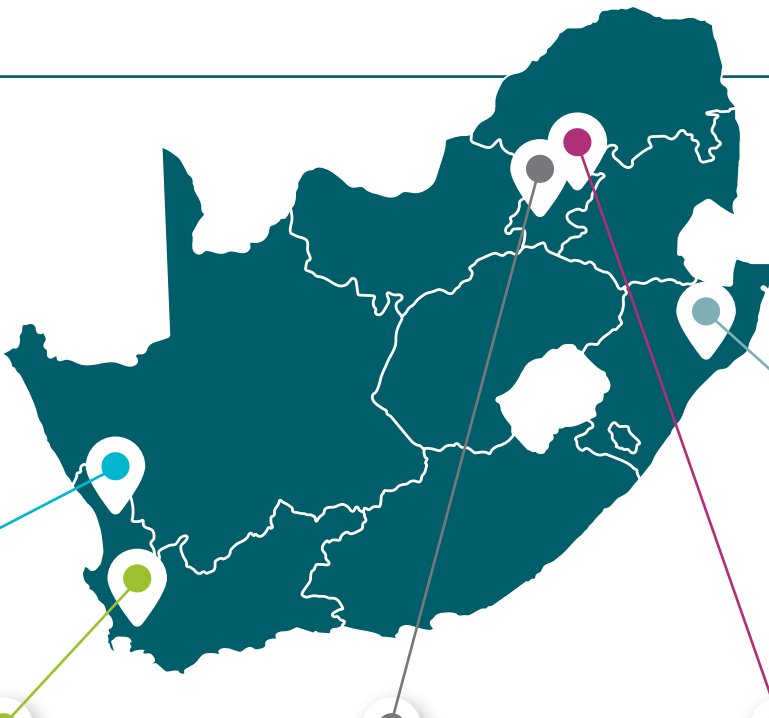
Through the Initiative, the NBI is driving the establishment of IRM Skills and Enterprise Development Hubs within public TVET colleges to strengthen the role of colleges in driving localised economic growth and industry-responsive skills development. The Hubs provide integrated training, enterprise acceleration, and enterprise incubation support services to meet the needs of IRM enterprises, unemployed youth and TVET college learners/graduates.



Footprint

5 IRM Hubs

located within public TVET colleges in 3 provinces.



Strategic Investment



Capitalised with the support of the German Government implemented through KfW Development Bank, the grant funding totals **€11 million**.

West Coast
TVET College
**Atlantis
Campus**

False Bay
TVET College
**Khayelitsha
Campus**

Ekurhuleni West
TVET College
**Katlehong
Campus**

Tshwane North
TVET College
**Mamelodi
Campus**

Umfolozi
TVET College
**Mandeni
Campus**

What the hubs offer

One Hub, 4 core services, multiple localised applications

Each IRM Hub offers four main services, alongside specialised offerings, tailored to meet the needs of the local economies and communities:

1

Production and training workshop

Building workforce skills



Who it supports:

- TVET students
- Unemployed youth
- Workers seeking new skills

What it provides:

- Demand-led training
- Workplace readiness
- Upskilling and ARPL opportunities

2

Business Center

Helping businesses grow



Who it supports:

- Start-ups
- Existing township enterprises
- TVET graduates

What it provides:

- Business support services
- Accelerator programmes
- Shared services and infrastructure
- Market activation opportunities

3

Makers Space

Turning ideas into innovation



Who it supports:

- Young innovators
- Entrepreneurs
- Growing MSMEs

What it provides:

- Shared equipment and machinery
- Technical expertise
- Innovation programmes
- Collaborative workspace

4

Incubator

Supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs



Who it supports:

- Students
- Graduates
- Community entrepreneurs

What it provides:

- Start-up support
- Technical mentoring
- Shared workshops
- Market and ecosystem linkages



More than a building, each hub creates an integrated ecosystem for the students, workers, unemployed youth and entrepreneurs to **work, build, grow, and connect**.

IRM Hub design criteria

Economic Inclusion

The hubs are designed to maximise participation by local MSMEs and local labour, with specific targets to ensure the participation of youth and women during construction.

The architecture is aspirational, seeking to deliver innovative, humancentric and sustainable facilities:



Timber-based construction

Where possible, the building is primarily designed as a timber-framed structure, promoting sustainability.



Teaching building

Structural elements, connections, pipework and services are intentionally exposed, allowing the building itself to serve as a practical learning and training tool for users and visitors.



Use of prefabricated modular components

Where possible, the design incorporates Prefabricated Modular Components (PMCs) to improve quality and sustainability.



Reduced environmental impact

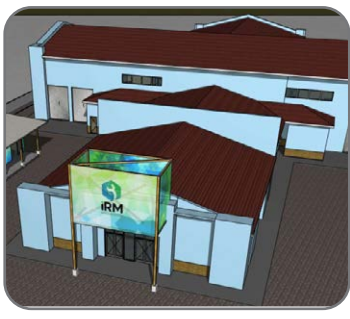
The design approach contributes to lower energy costs, reduced carbon emissions and healthier, more comfortable indoor environments.

ONE Sustainability Standard Using the EDGE System

1 Atlantis Hub



2 Katlehong Hub



3 Khayelitsha Hub



4 Mamelodi Hub



5 Mandeni Hub



EDGE Certification Target: Level 2 certification across all hubs, with a minimum of **20%** reduction in **energy consumption, water use and embodied energy** compared to local baselines. For the Khayelitsha hub, we are aiming for an **additional 20%** reduction, bringing the total target to at least a **40%** reduction in on-site energy consumption compared to the local baseline.

Project Timeline



1
Inception and planning



2
Concept and viability



3
Design development



4
Documentation and procurement



5
Construction



6
Project close out

Ongoing stakeholder engagement
(college, community, other partners)

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