



**VAAL UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

*Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.*

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Advancement Department

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Vanderbijlpark | 19 October 2022**

### **VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY TO HOST AN OPEN INNOVATION EVENT**

The Vaal University of Technology (VUT), through its Technology Transfer Office (TTO), will host an Open Innovation Evening on 21 October 2022 at the Riverside Sun Hotel in Vanderbijlpark. The primary aim of the event is to foster working relations between the VUT researchers and industry; and improve awareness and knowledge of Intellectual Property amongst the University community and its external stakeholders to improve innovations and prospects of commercialization.

In addition, the event will help address challenges associated with bridging communication barriers between academia and the industry, which have over the years remained a consistent challenge in fostering such collaborations. Challenges such as misalignment of objectives, difficulties in the negotiation of research contracts and concern about controlling intellectual property rights and the brain-drain in universities, will be amongst topics discussed during the event with a view of understanding perspectives from all stakeholders and finding solutions.

The VUT Research community and about 40-50 industry representatives are expected to be in attendance. It is anticipated that this event will have a positive impact of influencing research and innovation at VUT and the Vaal area to be more responsive to issues affecting society at large. This is in line with one of the important outcomes of higher education and research – which is to improve the quality of lives of ordinary citizens.

“It is an established fact that collaborations between universities and industry have given rise to many blockbusters and discoveries over the years. Endeavours to find solutions to complex social, environmental, and economic challenges have increasingly required collaboration between universities and industry because few organisations have the internal capacity to deliver results on their own”, commented Mrs Martha Ikome: VUT Acting Senior Manager: TTO.

As a key stakeholder in the Southern Gauteng region, the VUT aspires to become a nexus for research and innovation collaborations, with outcomes that will lead to a vibrant innovation ecosystem and commercially viable Intellectual Property.

**NOTE TO EDITOR:**

The Vaal University of Technology (VUT)'s Technology Transfer Office was established with the support of the [National Intellectual Property Management Office](#) (NIPMO) to exploit the university's research projects and intellectual property for socio-economic impact to promote regional economic development | [Read More](#)

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