

Media Release

Industry stakeholders gather in South Africa to map decarbonisation challenges and opportunities in the iron and steel value chain

14 April, Johannesburg, South Africa – On 18 April, the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (the dtic) in South Africa, within the ambit of the Steel and Metal Fabrication Master Plan 1.0, is hosting a workshop to discuss challenges and opportunities to decarbonise the country's iron and steel value chain.

The workshop, jointly organised by Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) and the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT), will bring together about 40 decision-makers and experts from industry, government, and civil society. The dialogue will focus on challenges and opportunities to achieve sustainable growth and development of the iron and steel value chain in South Africa in light of increasing climate change risks and a changing global and local policy environment.

Leading the charge to decarbonise the iron and steel industry

South Africa joined [LeadIT](#) in 2022, an initiative bringing together countries and companies to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from heavy industry by 2050. The steel workshop in South Africa, backed by LeadIT and TIPS, will support national-level plans, including the [Steel and Metal Fabrication Master Plan](#). The outcome of the workshop will be presented in June 2023 through reports published by TIPS and LeadIT.

The global iron and steel value chain is at a crossroads, and data from the [LeadIT Green Steel Tracker](#) shows that the transition away from emission-intensive steel production has already begun. To meet climate targets and avoid carbon lock-in and stranded assets, the global steel sector must use the 2020s to invest massively in low-carbon steelmaking technologies.

Place: Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), *19 Fredman Drive, Sandown, Sandton (Johannesburg), SA*

Time: Media is invited to join the first part of the workshop 08:30-10:20.

Some of the speakers:

Mr. Mahendra Shunmoogam, Director: Primary Minerals Beneficiation and Construction at the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition: South Africa's climate targets and the key role of industry for sustainable development.

Mr. Hilton Trollip, Research Fellow at University of Cape Town: Case study on opportunities to accelerate decarbonisation by reconfiguring global production chains. [Research](#) by Trollip indicates that South Africa is well-placed to export green iron to the global market, especially to Europe.

Mr. Prabodha Acharya, Chief Sustainability Officer from the Indian Steel company JSW: Example of decarbonization strategies and plans from around the world.

Amb. Håkan Juholt, Swedish Ambassador, South Africa: South Africa's LeadIT membership

Dr. Aaron Maltais, LeadIT Secretariat at Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI): Presentation of the LeadIT Initiative & [LeadIT Roadmap Planner](#)

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Mr. Muhammed Patel, Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) Senior Economist: Introduction of the iron and steel industries' economic significance and alignment with South Africa's development plans and climate targets.

The Leadership Group for Industry Transition, (LeadIT) gathers countries and companies that are committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions from industry by 2050. It is led by Sweden and India and supported by the World Economic Forum. LeadIT convenes high-level dialogues and knowledge sharing on industry transition, [carries out analysis that informs policymaking](#), and supports the development of national roadmaps with [planning](#) and [monitoring](#) tools and workshops.

Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) is an independent, non-profit, economic research institution that supports economic policy development. TIPS undertakes quantitative and qualitative research, project management, dialogue facilitation, capacity building and knowledge sharing. Its areas of focus are: industrial policy, trade and regional integration, sustainable growth, and a just transition to a sustainable inclusive economy. In this context, the just transition agenda aims to lower the risks faced by the most affected and vulnerable stakeholders, such as working people, small businesses, and low-income communities, while providing an opportunity to maximise the development of new opportunities and redress historical injustices.

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