

South Africa's first Inspiring Fifty women

Out of the 252 women in tech who were nominated for Inspiring Fifty South Africa, the final top 50 have been announced.



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The selected nominees have more than proved themselves worthy of their new titles as one of South Africa's first Inspiring Fifty women.

"The calibre of women is amazing and the project has reached so many different fields," according to project manager, Chantal Louw.

The finalists are showcasing a broad spectrum of skills;

- Six are academics
- Ten are in corporate
- 25 are entrepreneurs
- Two are journalists
- Six are from NGOs and
- One is a VC

Inspiring Fifty was initiated by Janneke Niessen and Joelle Frijters from the Netherlands and has since been realised in the Netherlands, Europe, France, and the Nordics.

The initiative aims to prove the philosophy that “if she can see it, she can be it.”

“We are excited about all these women who have been given the opportunity to create awareness of their roles in the technology and innovation sectors and encourage more women to join the force”, says Janneke.

Hosting the first platform for inspiring women in technology outside of Europe, the Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bonnie Horbach was elated at how far-spread the campaign reached, with finalists from Cape Town (28), Gauteng (19) and Kwa-Zulu Natal (3).

Top 50

Aisha Pandor	Co-founder	SweepSouth
Anita Loots	Head of African Planning	SKA
Anitha Ramsuran	Manager of Innovation Skills Development	Technology Innovation Agency
Anne Githuku-Shongwe	Founder and CEO	AFROES Transformational Games
Anusuya Chinsamy	Professor and Head	Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town
Audrey Verhaeghe	Chairperson	Innovation Summit
Barbara Mallinson	Founder and CEO	Obami
Boitumelo Menyatswe	Founder	Minderz
Darlene Menzies	Founder and CEO	SMEasy and Finfind
Dr Mmaki Jantjies	Head of the Information Systems Department	University of the Western Cape
Dr. Adriana Marais	Head of Innovation	SAP Africa
Ellen Fischat	Managing Director	Silicon Cape
Ellie Hagopian	CEO	Nomosphere
Emma Dicks	Founder and Director	Code for Cape Town

Esther Titilayo Akinlabi	Associate Professor	Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at University of Johannesburg
Fikiswa Majola	Deputy Director: Space Science and Technology	Department of Science and Technology
Hema Vallabh	Founder	WomHub
Julie Cleverdon	Director	Cape Town Science Centre
Kim Normand Dobrin	Computer literacy teacher	The Tomorrow Trust
Lethabo Motswaledi	CEO and Co-founder	3D Power
Lindiwe Matlali	Founder & CEO	Africa Teen Geeks
Lynn Wilson	Systems Manager: HR Information Management	TFG
Magda Wierzycka	CEO	Sygnia
Maximillian Kalzen	Co-founder	Treeshake

Mickey Mashale	Managing Executive and Head of Region	Vodacom
Mokhudu Macabda	Director	Kopanang Agricultural Co-operative Ltd
Nafisa Akabor	Freelance Technology Journalist	Forbes Woman Africa, Destiny, Wired to the Web
Ndoni Mgunu	Co-Founder	Black Women in Science
Ngwako Lethabo Ramohlale	CEO	Nunnovation
Nnele Nkholise	Founder	Likoebe Innovation Consultants
Nokuthula Ndlovu	Founder and Strategic Engagement Partner	Limit Breakers Global Foundation & Barclays Africa Group
Nomso Faith Kana	Managing Director	Sun 'n Shield 84 Technologies; Blaze Away SA, Taungana Africa
Nothando Moleketi	COO	ReWare
Nunu Ntshingila	Head	Facebook Africa
Phadiela Cooper,	Principal,	COSAT High School
Pontsho Maruping	Councilor	South African Council for Space Affairs
Portia Maurice	Director	Nehanda Group

Pria Chetty	Regional Director	EndCode
Rapelang Rabana	Founder and CEO	Rekindle Learning
Regina Luki Kgatle	Founder and Co-founder	67 Games, WeSmooth
Saidah Nash Carter	Head of Strategic Partnerships and Innovation	Thomson Reuters
Samantha Wright	Blogger, Youtuber, Content Creator	TechGirl
Sibongile Sambo	Founder and CEO	SRS Aviation Ltd.
Sibongiseni Tunzelana Thotsejane	CIO	Flavalite
Stephanie Cowper	CEO & Co-Founder	BeSpecular Pty Ltd.
Suzana Moreira	Founder	Mowoza
Vere Shaba	Owner and Director	Shaba & Ramplin Green Building Solutions
Videsha Proothveerajh	Country Manager	Southern Africa Intel
Xoliswa Kakana	CEO	ICT-Works Pty Ltd
Yolisa Kani,	Public Policy Head	Uber SA

According to Horbach, the Inspiring Fifty platform will achieve more than only educate girls.

“*Inspiring Fifty South Africa will be part of European platform of talented women in technology and innovation. It will show the calibre of female talent available in South Africa and change the persisting perception about Africa in Europe. There is so much talent here in Africa and now with this amazing list of women, the Inspiring Fifty South Africa, we have the results to prove it.*”

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