

Monthly Newsletter

South African Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association

Embracing Innovation: A Warm Welcome to the Inaugural AMD Newsletter

I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you as we embark on an exciting new chapter with the launch of our first edition of the AMD Newsletter. It is with immense pleasure and pride that I share this moment with you, our valued stakeholders, partners, and enthusiasts.

At AMD, we believe in the power of innovation to transform the world and enhance the human experience. The AMD Newsletter is a testament to our commitment to keeping you informed about the latest developments, breakthroughs, and inspirations within our dynamic industry. It serves as a platform to connect, engage, and share the incredible journey of innovation that we are collectively undertaking.

Through this newsletter, we aim to achieve several key objectives:

- 1. Transparent Communication:** Transparency is the foundation of trust, and we are committed to fostering a sense of openness with our community. The AMD Newsletter will provide you with insights into our strategies, decisions, and the vision that propels us forward.
- 2. Highlighting Technological Progress:** Recognising the significance of staying at the forefront of the defence tech industry, we, as trailblazers, acknowledge the vital role played by international shows and exhibitions in providing a platform to exhibit innovation. The newsletter will serve as a dedicated space to spotlight the most recent technological advancements, ensuring that we consistently lead the way in innovation, both on the global stage and within our industry.
- 3. Celebrating Milestones:** Every achievement, no matter how small, contributes to our collective success. The AMD Newsletter will be a platform to cele-

brate milestones, from product launches and partnerships to the accomplishments of our incredible team.

- 4. Engaging with our Community:** We value the diverse perspectives and insights of our community. The newsletter will facilitate meaningful engagement, providing opportunities for collaboration, feedback, and shared success.
- 5. Inspiring Creativity:** Innovation thrives in an environment of creativity and inspiration. Through thought-provoking articles, interviews, and features, we aim to ignite the spark of creativity within each of you.

As we embrace this new communication channel, I encourage you to actively participate, share your thoughts, and join us on this exciting journey of discovery and progress. The AMD Newsletter is not just a publication; it is a living, breathing testament to the collective brilliance that defines us.

Thank you for being an integral part of the AMD family. Together, let's continue pushing the boundaries of what's possible.

-Sandile Ndlovu, Executive Director

Message from the AMD Chair

I am both honoured and humbled to assume the role of Acting Chairperson for AMD. I extend my deepest gratitude to the board and each member for entrusting me with this responsibility.

As we embark on this journey together, my foremost commitment is to lead with integrity, transparency, and a tireless dedication to our shared goals. I envision a tenure marked by collaboration, innovation, inclusivity and growth. Our strength lies in the diversity of our perspectives, and I am eager to harness this collective energy to drive AMD to greater heights.

Together, let us strive for excellence, pushing the boundaries of what is possible. My focus will be on fostering a culture of continuous improvement, ensuring that AMD remains at the forefront of this ever-evolving landscape of the defence industry.

I look forward to working closely with each one of you, together we will overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and build a future where AMD continues to be a pioneer in the industry.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. Let us embark on this exciting journey together.



Message from the ED

Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD)

As we embrace the new year, it is with great pleasure and pride that we extend our warmest greetings to each of you. In this edition, we have the privilege of reflecting upon the remarkable achievements and milestones that have defined AMD journey whilst divulging significant changes to our Board in the last financial year.

The past year has been a testament to the unwavering commitment, innovation, and collaborative spirit that define our Association. Through challenges and triumphs, AMD has consistently demonstrated its resilience and ability to lead the way in the ever-evolving landscape of the defence industry.

From international showcases that positioned AMD as a global leader to groundbreaking conferences and impactful collaborations, every endeavour has contributed to shaping a legacy of excellence. As we delve into the highlights of the past financial year, we invite you to join us in celebrating the collective efforts that have propelled AMD to new heights.

Celebrating Successes:

International Presence and Collaborations: AMD has left an indelible mark at prestigious international defence exhibitions in the past year, including IDEX, IDEF, and DSEI. These platforms not only showcased cutting-edge defence technologies from our members but also fostered crucial collaborations, positioning AMD as a formidable global industry leader.

Public-Private Partnerships Conference: The Association successfully organised a remarkable inaugural one-day conference on Public-Private Partnerships for the Defence and Security Clusters. With over 250 delegates in attendance, the conference provided a robust platform for networking and knowledge exchange, shaping the trajectory of PPPs in South Africa defence and security sectors.

BRICS Exhibition and AGOA: AMD active participation in the BRICS exhibition and AGOA has expanded our global footprint and established meaningful connections with international counterparts. These initiatives have been instrumental in promoting SADI's defence capabilities on a broader scale.

Exercise Vuk'Uhlohe: During Exercise Vuk'Uhlohe, SADI's contributions were evident in various aspects, including the deployment of advanced weaponry, communication systems, and logistical support. The exercise not only allowed the defence industry to display its latest advancements but also facilitated collaboration and knowledge-sharing between SADI and the military. This symbiotic relationship between the defence industry and the armed forces is essential for ensuring that South Africa remains at the forefront of defence innovation, ready to address evolving security challenges. Exercise Vuk'Uhlohe thus stands as a testament to the synergy between SADI and the military, highlighting their joint efforts in safeguarding the nation's security and sovereignty.

Defence Capability Demo Day: The Defence Capability Demo Day held on the 20th September 2023 stands as a testament to AMD's success in spearheading innovation and collaboration within the defence industry. For the first time, the event was included in the AMD calendar year, allowing organisations to showcase diverse defence and military technologies, marking a significant milestone. It served as a dynamic platform for participants to present cutting-edge defence technologies, equipment, and capabilities, including notable demonstrations from OTT Solutions and Twiga. Moreover, the Defence Capability Day successfully highlighted state-of-the-art defence technologies and innovations, fostering networking, collaboration, and raising public awareness on the critical role defence capabilities play in safeguarding our nation.

Sovereign Security Conference: The 5th annual Sovereign Security Conference held at Gerotek, Indlovu Conference Centre, on September 21, 2023, brought together distinguished experts, policymakers, academics, and industry leaders to address critical issues concerning national sovereignty and security in the changing global landscape.

AMD Board Changes

The AMD Office brings forth important updates regarding changes to the AMD Board. It is with a blend of gratitude and a hint of nostalgia that we announce the resignations of our Chairperson, Ms. Nombasa Ndhlovu, our Vice-Chairperson, and AMD NDIC Representative, Mr. Deon Olivier, as well as our Honorary Secretary, Brigadier General (ret) Damien de Lange.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. Ndhlovu, Mr. Olivier, and Brigadier General (ret) de Lange for their devoted service and outstanding leadership during their tenure. As Office Bearers, they proficiently navigated the ship, steering us through challenges and ensuring a smoother journey. While there's more work ahead, their dedication has undeniably left us in a better position today.

As they embark on new ventures, we wish Ms. Ndhlovu, Mr. Olivier, and Brigadier General (ret) de Lange every success. Their contributions to our industry will be remembered and celebrated.

In the spirit of progress and renewal, we are pleased to announce appointments within AMD, reinforcing our commitment to excellence and leadership. Ms. Michelle Nxumalo now serves as the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Ratilal Rowji assumes the role of Honorary Secretary, and Mr. Isaac Motale takes on the position of the AMD NDIC Representative. Alongside Ms. Sefale Montsi, these seasoned individuals will guide and lead the association until our elective AGM in June 2024. Their wealth of experience, acquired through various roles over the past decade, positions them as invaluable assets to our industry.

We call upon all members to lend their support to Ms. Nxumalo, Mr. Rowji, and Mr. Motale as they navigate AMD towards greater achievements. Let us continue the legacy of excellence, collaboration, and shared successes that define our esteemed association.

We take pride in the international recognition AMD has garnered, positioning us as a global leader in the defence industry. From prestigious exhibitions to groundbreaking conferences and impactful collaborations, every step has contributed to shaping AMD's legacy of excellence. The success of initiatives like the Public-Private Partnerships Conference, BRICS Exhibition, Exercise Vuk'Uhlohe, Defence Capability Demo Day, and the Sovereign Security Conference underscores the collective commitment to advancing South Africa's defence capabilities and fostering international partnerships.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member of the Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries Association (AMD). The achievements and milestones we've celebrated together in the past financial year are a testament to the dedication, innovation, and collaborative spirit that define our esteemed Association. As we reflect on the past, let us also look forward to the future with optimism and determination. The journey ahead holds exciting opportunities for further growth, innovation, and collaboration. Together, we will continue to lead the way in the ever-evolving landscape of the defence industry, ensuring that South Africa remains at the forefront of defence innovation and prepared to address the challenges of tomorrow. Thank you for your unwavering support, commitment, and contributions to AMD's success. Here's to another year of excellence, collaboration, and shared achievements. Wishing you all a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead.

