

## **FACT SHEET: GAUTENG FOUNDRY TRAINING CENTRE**

- The Gauteng Foundry Training Centre (GFTC) will start its first course in January 2014.
- SA is currently experiencing a critical shortage of technically skilled people in the foundry industry. The Minister of Higher Education and Training dubbed 2013 the year of the artisan, highlighting the need for the development of qualified artisans to support the SA manufacturing sector.
- The artisan programme will be the initial focus of the GFTC in terms of the following three trades: melters, moulders and pattern makers in the foundry industry. Each of these will encompass a knowledge component, a practical skills component and a work experience component.
- The artisan programme is aimed at school leavers and new entrants into the foundry industry.
- The first group of artisans will comprise a total of 20 apprentices.
- A submission has been made to the merSETA to sponsor the course fee for the inception group of apprentices for 2014. Apprentices will receive a stipend during their work experience phase. Apprentices are able to apply for a travel and accommodation grant.
- The GFTC is located at the Ekurhuleni East College Kwa Thema, which is a public Further Education and Training (FET) college
- The facility is brand new and has been designed for foundry training.
- Equipment is approximately 90% new and 10% used.
- All the heavy plant and furnaces were specially designed and produced by local suppliers to suit the scaled-down equipment suitable for training.
- The GFTC building is easily accessed by two roll-up doors at either end, including two side wall doors. A separate class room will be used for theory training.
- The project is being funded by the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) in partnership with National Foundry Technology Network (NFTN) - a dti (Department of Trade and Industry) initiative.

### **GFTC Admission Requirements**

- Apprentices who wish to apply to the GFTC for the foundry trades programme need to meet the following admission requirements:
  - NQF level 4 qualification with Mathematics, Science and Engineering Drawing. (NCV 4, Grade 12)

- Proficient in English
- Applications close 31 October 2013
- Prospective students who have completed the prescribed application form and submitted it before the deadline will be informed of any follow-up interviews. If the interview is successful, the student will participate in a final assessment for possible selection into the programme.

Further information on admissions can be obtained from:

**Ekurhuleni East College**

Sam Ngema Drive

Kwa-Thema, Springs

Private Bag X79 Springs 1560

Tel 011 730 6600 ext 3249

Cell: 082 457 1457

Email: [foundation@eec.edu.za](mailto:foundation@eec.edu.za)

[www.eec.edu.za](http://www.eec.edu.za)

For any trade related questions please contact the GFTC manager:

Robert Bezuidenhout

082 337 1473

[robertb@eec.edu.za](mailto:robertb@eec.edu.za)

## **The collaborating partners**

### *National Foundry Technology Network (NFTN)*

The NFTN is a national dti initiative that facilitates the development of a globally-competitive South African foundry industry through appropriate skills training, technology transfer and diffusion of state-of-the-art technologies.

In terms of the establishment of the GFTC, the NFTN carries responsibility for the overall implementation and establishment of the training centre. The NFTN will also co-ordinate foundry-specific training in collaboration with South African Institute of Foundrymen (SAIF).

For further information, visit [www.nftn.co.za](http://www.nftn.co.za) or contact Adrie El-Mohamadi, NFTN Project Leader on [adrie.elmohamadi@nftn.co.za](mailto:adrie.elmohamadi@nftn.co.za) or 012 841 2127 or 082 902 4083.

### *Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED)*

The Department of Economic Development has two main areas of responsibility. On the one hand, GDED is tasked with ensuring that the right environmental framework and initiatives are put in place

to foster economic growth and job creation in the province, and thereby push back the boundaries of poverty. On the other hand, GDED is also responsible for ensuring that sound financial management policies and structures are in place within the Gauteng provincial government.

GDED has funded the establishment of the GFTC, in line with its commitment to foster economic growth in the manufacturing sector of Gauteng.

For further information, visit [www.ecodev.gpg.gov.za](http://www.ecodev.gpg.gov.za) or contact Matodzi Rathumbu, Chief Director: Economic Planning on [matodzi.rathumbu@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:matodzi.rathumbu@gauteng.gov.za) or 011 355 8485 or 073 310 7219.

#### *South African Institute of Foundrymen (SAIF)*

The SAIF is a non-profit company that has been active within South Africa, initially as a branch of the Institute of British Foundrymen since 1939, then as an independent institute since 1964.

SAIF will coordinate foundry-specific training in collaboration with NFTN to ensure that the training provided at the GFTC complements existing SAIF training modules. The SAIF will also acquire the publically funded equipment needed for the GFTC and will work closely with NFTN and merSETA to set the training programme.

For further information, visit [www.foundries.org.za](http://www.foundries.org.za) or contact John Davies on [jdavies@uj.ac.za](mailto:jdavies@uj.ac.za) or [mbiljon@uj.ac.za](mailto:mbiljon@uj.ac.za) or 011 559 6468.

#### *Ekurhuleni East College Kwa Thema (EEC)*

Ekurhuleni East FET College is a Further Education and Training College and public provider of Education, Training and Development. The College consists of five campuses in the Ekurhuleni East area: Benoni, Brakpan, Daveyton, Kwa Thema and Springs.

The EEC Kwa Thema will provide the required infrastructure and buildings for the establishment of the GFTC and fundamental training for the specific curricula required for the foundry industry.

For further information, visit [www.eec.edu.za](http://www.eec.edu.za) or contact Robert Bezuidenhout on [foundry@eec.edu.za](mailto:foundry@eec.edu.za) or 082 337 1473.

#### *The merSETA*

The merSETA is one of the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) established to promote skills development in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998 (as amended). The 21 SETAs broadly reflect different sectors of the South African economy. The merSETA encompasses Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services.

The merSETA is a key partner in the development of the GFTC's curriculum to ensure that the quality of the training is of the appropriate standard.

For further information, visit [www.merseta.org.za](http://www.merseta.org.za) or contact Naphtaly Mokgotsane on [nmokgotsane@merseta.org.za](mailto:nmokgotsane@merseta.org.za) or 010 219 3000.

#### *University of Johannesburg Metal Casting Technology Station (MCTS)*

The Metal Casting Technology Station (MCTS) is a non-profit government initiative at the Department of Engineering Metallurgy, University of Johannesburg. MCTS provides technology transfer assistance to SMME's in the metal casting industry. The Metal Casting Technology Station supports and assists foundries in terms of industrial project and technology transfer of metal casting.

MCTS will complement the apprentice training programme at the GFTC by providing specialised support and testing services.

For further information, visit [www.uj.ac.za/mcts](http://www.uj.ac.za/mcts) or contact Takalani Madzivhandila on [tmadzivhandila@uj.ac.za](mailto:tmadzivhandila@uj.ac.za) or 082 584 8371.

#### *National Tooling Initiative Programme (NTIP)*

The National Tooling Initiative (NTI) is an initiative that has, as a national objective, the rehabilitation of the South African Tool, Die and Mould Making (TDM) industry and thereby contributing to a strategic growth stimulator for Manufacturing and Technical skills development.

NTIP provided operational support and advice during the establishment of the training centre and will complement the apprentice training programme at the GFTC by providing training to the patternmaker apprenticeship.

For further information, visit [www.ntipweb.co.za](http://www.ntipweb.co.za) or contact Carlos Barbosa on [carlosb@ntipweb.co.za](mailto:carlosb@ntipweb.co.za) or 079 873 7896.

#### *Aluminium Federation of South Africa (AFSA)*

The AFSA represents South Africa's aluminium industry. It aims to strengthen the pre-competitive platform so that its members are better able to achieve their individual business objectives, as well as to promote the interests of its members.

AFSA members have contributed to the operation of the GFTC by supplying aluminium re-melt ingot. In addition, through the Aluminium Casters Association, AFSA will offer support in providing workplace experience in the Aluminium Casting sector.

For further information, visit [www.afsa.org.za](http://www.afsa.org.za) or contact Rentia Malan on 011 455 5553 or [afsa@afsa.org.za](mailto:afsa@afsa.org.za).

## **The foundry industry**

- A foundry is a factory in which ferrous and non-ferrous metal is melted in a variety of air, gas and electric furnaces.
- The molten metal is poured into sand and permanent metal moulds to produce a variety of small, medium and heavy duty castings.
- Castings contribute to a value added chain by creating additional work and employment through further processing and integration into a large number of other products.
- Castings of various size and shape are found in approximately 80% of most assembled products.
- Castings are core, key, critical and used in most manufacturing processes.
- The foundry trade is one of the oldest trades known to mankind, dating back to the iron age.
- Castings are in wide use by many industries, including automotive, mining, engineering, agriculture, medical, aerospace, rail, marine, consumer goods and electronics, amongst others.
- Foundries spurn and encompass many other trades in their infrastructure in order for them to run efficiently, including fitting, electrical, rigging, boiler making and instrument technicians.
- Careers in the foundry industry involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. Individuals interested in a career in the foundry industry typically enjoy creating things with their hands and prefer responsibilities with a technical, mechanical or engineering focus. People who are interested in the foundry industry are usually task orientated, enjoy solving abstract problems and are curious about the art of melting metal.

Ends

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*Issued on behalf of the Gauteng Foundry Training Technology Centre by Corporate Communication. For further information or interviews, please contact Despina Harito on [despina@corpcomm.co.za](mailto:despina@corpcomm.co.za) / 084 453 1755 / (011) 452 1840.*

*A media release is also available. High resolution images of the launch are available on the following link after 14:30 on 18 September 2013 <http://www.nftn.co.za/gftc/>*