
We would like to invite all Automotive SMME (local and International) to participate in the continuous improvement programme for competitiveness during the global financial crisis.

The programme include **benchmarking exercise on operating efficiency and environmental performance at an enterprise level, benchmarking exercise is conducted by independent companies.**

The dti,UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) in partnership with AIDC (Automotive Industry Development Centre) have recognized the need for assistance in the Automotive Sector where SA's manufacturing sector of local component suppliers are under continuous pressure to improve their performance or lose business to competitors in other emerging economies like Brazil, China and India. UNIDO and the AIDC aim to support these suppliers in becoming globally competitive through the Dti funding. The dti,UNIDO funding will mean that suppliers will only need to cover approximately 30% of the cost of the Tirisano programme (Continuous Improvement Programme), as 70% will be funded by dti through UNIDO.

The AIDC's "Tirisano programme" is a continuous improvement programme aimed at raising operating efficiency at plant level. Derived from the Sotho word for 'working together', the Tirisano programme has had positive impacts on productivity, quality, delivery, market access and skills development amongst participating companies.

"In the past five years the AIDC has implemented the Tirisano programme at over 45 companies, training more than 4,000 shop floor workers on basic lean principles and world-class manufacturing. The ultimate beneficiaries of this project will be Tier 1 and Tier 2 SME and BEE component suppliers in the SA automotive industry. The funding has been committed over a three-year period and is in line with UNIDO's strength in cluster development. Drawing on the experience of the UK automotive sector and in collaboration with the Confederation of India Industries, UNIDO has already played a significant role in identifying continuous improvement methodologies and boosting the capacity of AIDC staff in cluster development and cleaner production.

- **Other AIDC Supplier Development programmes :**
 - **Industrial Engineering Services** - Layout Planning/Simulation, Logistics Analysis and Improvement, Maintenance Principles, Continuous Improvement Activities.
 - **ISO 9001 and TS16949** – This Service aim is assisting the automotive sector with the implementation of QMS implementation.
 - **The HIV/AIDS Workplace Programmes** - The focus on HIV/AIDS Workplace Programmes will contribute to the social development and competitiveness improvement within the automotive sector

and supporting communities. The rationale behind the successes of the programme in recent years is the fact that HIV/AIDS is not just a social responsibility but has a significant impact on productivity and stability of the business and has therefore become a business sustainability issue.

CONTACT PERSON 1: Bianca Jagger (Senior Project Manager)

Tel: +27 (012) 564 5283

Email: bjagger@aidc.co.za

Fax: +27 (012) 564 5301

CONTACT PERSON 2 : Nkumbuzi Ben-Mazwi (Department Manager)

Tel: +27 (012) 564 5321

Email: nben-mazwi@aidc.co.za

Fax 2 e-mail: (+27 86) 657 8818