

## **Matriculants can still enroll for study in 2010**

Matriculants who had maths and science as subjects and who have not yet made a career choice can still apply for free training in the tooling manufacturing industry's 2010 TDM (Tooling, Die and Mouldmaking) Powered Pre-Apprenticeship Orientation Programme

The TDM Powered Pre-Apprenticeship Orientation Programme aims to prepare and empower students and industry incumbents for further training to qualify as artisans or engineers and to enable them to pursue exciting careers in a wide range of industries such as the automotive, aerospace, mining chemical, defence and electronics industries. Artisans and engineers can work in these industries as tool designers, project managers, tool die and mould makers, metrologists, specialist computer numerically controlled machinists, engineering analysts etc.

The CEO of the National Tooling Initiatives' Intsimbi Programme, Dirk van Dyk, says South Africa has a critical shortage of skills, especially in the tooling manufacturing industry. "This situation has serious implications for the country's future economic growth. The National Tooling Initiative Programme (NTIP), in conjunction with the Toolmaking Association of South Africa (TASA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) have therefore launched a skills development initiative in response to this challenge." says Van Dyk.

The skills development programme has several levels of qualifications: Pre-Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship, Master Artisan and Engineer. The entry level is the TDM Pre-Apprenticeship Orientation Programme which aims to strengthen students who are weak in Maths and Science (at Grade 12 level or equivalent) and prepare them for the Apprenticeship Programme. (Students who have passed Maths and Science at Grade 12 level (or equivalent) may enter directly into the Apprenticeship Programme). The programme starts in February 2010 and will be facilitated by the Kwa Thema Campus of the Ekurhuleni East FET College and the Missouri Technical School in Eldorado Park.

The TDM Pre-Apprenticeship Orientation Programme has three 3-month terms.

- Term 1 is a theoretical phase and covers subjects such as Shop Floor Safety, Engineering Drawing Reading, Basic Metrology, Shop Floor Mathematics, Occupational English, Mathematics (Algebra), Science, Basic Computer Skills and Life Skills.
- Term 2 is a workshop phase and focuses on basic hand skills and basic machining – milling and turning
- Term 3 comprises industry based On The Job Training (OJT)

Upon completion students will receive national NTIP certification and (NIMS) USA recognition for practical work. Although the objective of the programme is for graduates from the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme to continue their studies towards the Artisan qualification by entering the Apprenticeship Programme the following year, some students might want to directly enter employment in industry – and this Pre-Apprenticeship qualification would have sufficiently qualified such students to do so. As the Apprenticeship is an outcomes-based programme (not time-based e.g. a four-year period), students will gain credits for completing the Pre-Apprenticeship and will therefore have a reduced Apprenticeship to qualify as an Artisan. Any relevant work experience will also gain credits towards the Apprenticeship qualification.

“This intensive programme will help candidates determine whether they want to continue in the TDM sector and will provide them with an excellent foundation for the competency-based apprenticeship programme, which is due to be launched in 2011,” says Van Dyk.

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### **About the National Tooling Initiative**

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.

The NTI has been developed as a national, multi-stakeholder initiative and structured as a Public Private Partnership (PPP), working with the Department of Trade and Industry. [TASA](#) (Toolmaking Association of South Africa) has played a founding role in the establishment of the NTI. A subsidiary of TASA, [NTIP](#) (Pty) Ltd was founded and is acting as the Management and Delivery Agency for the NTI. For more information [www.ntipweb.co.za](http://www.ntipweb.co.za)

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