



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

**RE: FIRM SURVEY: TRADE & INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGIES
(ANTICIPATING LABOUR AND SKILLS NEEDS IN THE MANUFACTURING,
ENGINEERING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES IN SOUTH AFRICA)**

The Metals, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) has commissioned Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) to conduct a study into anticipating labour and skills needs in the manufacturing, engineering and related industries in South Africa. Furthermore, technological change is an integral part of the research and the important consideration on industrial policy, and such changes are rapidly taking place across the manufacturing industry. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to understand skills needs better within the current context and assist skills planning to assess future skills needs in the sector.

The manufacturing industry has experienced rapid and far-reaching changes over the past few years and the drivers of change in the industry include wider economic developments; technological change; climate change; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, these changes have a significant impact on firms and the workforce.

In order to proceed to the next stage of the research, and to verify the work already undertaken, it is essential to obtain feedback from stakeholders. Therefore, feedback is required to not only determine the relevance and applicability of the change drivers but to fully unpack the impact of these change drivers. In addition, this will be key focus in the interviews, survey and stakeholder engagements.

There will be two firm surveys for two projects, both of which require responses to better serve the sectors and that the researchers have tried their utmost to ensure that the survey questions are not covering the same topics or questions, if there are similarities, the questions are structured such that they are required for statistical analysis and modelling.

TIPS have completed a literature review and economic analysis. They will now be conducting:

- A series of interviews to collect qualitative information (by 15 July). These will also assist in finalising the survey design.
- A survey (which will run during August/September).

The economic analysis, interviews and survey results will be integrated into reports which will be workshopped with chambers during November.

Regards,

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