



Aerospace Industry Support Initiative

an initiative of the dtic

Aerospace Industry Support Initiative invests in tomorrow's experts

Local companies and small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) play a big role in combating unemployment and developing the country's economy. The Aerospace Industry Support Initiative (AISI) assists local companies and SMMEs to promote the capabilities of South African aerospace, defence, marine and advanced manufacturing sectors. The AISI is an initiative of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) and is hosted and managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Through the AISI intervention, the initiatives' beneficiaries provide employment opportunities to young people, as well as training in specialist areas and offer support to young entrepreneurs.

Meet the AISI beneficiaries who are changing the game

Bulelani Mathe - Boilermaker apprentice



25
Years

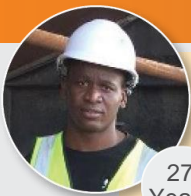
Location: Nongoma, KwaZulu-Natal
Qualification: National Certificate (Engineering & Related Design) Level 4
Company name: Sandock Astral Shipyards

Mathe's qualification became a steppingstone for him to pursue his dream job as a boilermaker. He is currently employed as boilermaker apprentice at Sandock Astral Shipyards (SAS), one of the largest shipyards in southern Africa. Mathe is currently acquiring skills in non-destructive testing (NDT). The NDT training is possible through support offered by AISI, which is **the dtic** initiative. "I feel highly honoured and grateful to receive such a great life changing opportunity. I sincerely thank **the dtic** and AISI for this opportunity. The support we received improved the company's production

by enhancing our NDT skills and we are now able to conduct internal tests on different materials and welds before we outsource these tasks for external testing. We are looking forward to receiving more projects that will enable us to enhance our skills and compete with the best NDT technicians globally and prove that South Africa is capable of producing quality personnel."

Mathe's words of encouragement to young people: "Equip yourself with practical skills, start with what you have."

Mnelisi Zondi - Boilermaker apprentice



27
Years

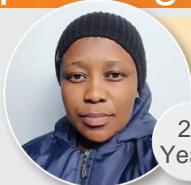
Location: Yellowwood Park, KwaZulu-Natal
Qualification: Non-destructive testing and Radiography testing and magnetic particle testing Level 2
Company name: SAS

Zondi is currently pursuing his dream career at SAS, one of southern Africa's largest shipyards. Zondi's passion of becoming an exceptional boilermaker grew when he started to attend NDT training offered to SAS employees. The NDT training was possible through support offered by **the dtic** initiative, the AISI. NDT is a method used by industries to evaluate material properties without permanently compromising the material's composition.

His role at SAS includes material mark off, oxy-acetylene cutting, shielded metal arc welding, rolling and bending of steel, structural steel and pipe fabrication, as well as pipe, cone and hopper developments. "Thank you so much to **the dtic** and AISI for the opportunity, I am very excited about this journey and I'm looking forward to more opportunities," says Zondi

His advice to young people: "Do not give up, your time is just around the corner. Do not wait for a job try other legal ways of making money."

Mphareng Madihlaba - Machine operator (Continuously Transposed Conductor department)



26
Years

Location: Sekhukhune, Limpopo
Qualification: Bachelor of Science (Chemical Engineering)
Company name: Wilec

Madihlaba joined Wilec in 2021 as a production trainee and worked on a project supported by the AISI, an initiative of **the dtic**. She completed her training on the manufacturing of continuously transposed copper and was later absorbed as the operator in the department. Madihlaba expresses gratitude for the support she has received through **the dtic**. "As a young

engineering graduate trying to head-start my career, I am very grateful for the opportunity. I feel empowered, fortunate and blessed to have been part of the project (the first of its kind in the country). Being part of this project enabled me to expand my theoretical skills and prove my hard and soft skills to gain a competitive advantage in this field."