



Friday, 8 April 2022

SBIDZ

Media Release

## **2<sup>ND</sup> Energy Transition Webinar – Saldanha as a potential hydrogen hub**

- Saldanha Bay identified as potential hydrogen hub
- The SBIDZ can play an important role in shaping the future of sustainable global seaborne trade
- Developing a green hydrogen economy will benefit the community

Following the first and hugely successful Energy Transition Webinar on 17 February, *Smart manufacturing in the energy and maritime sector through the lens of an SEZ*, the Saldanha Bay Innovation Campus (SB-IC) will hold the second webinar on 12 April.

Adinda Preller, SBIDZ Executive: Transaction & Investor Support, said that the Innovation Campus webinars looked to create awareness, build partnerships and position itself as a collaborator with other special economic zones (SEZs) to harness the opportunities brought on by the energy transition.

“In South Africa, hydrogen is used in the fuels and chemicals sector, and there is global interest in its use as a pathway to decarbonisation,” said Preller, citing two reports: one commissioned by the EU from CSIR, and another being a P4G partnership study by Ricardo and Environmental Defense Fund. “These reports showed South Africa could generate power fuels based on renewable hydrogen. It concluded that Saldanha Bay was well placed for the export of power fuels to Northwest Europe and the Far East, at costs competitive with other renewable-rich countries.”

The Saldanha Bay Innovation Campus’s webinar – *Saldanha as a hydrogen hub* – will focus on unpacking this report. Key focus areas will be:

- the role of hydrogen in the energy transition;
- the areas where SA is leading in RD&I hydrogen development; and
- the type of RD&I needed to scale production.

The webinar will involve a panel of experts including Katrina Abhold, Global Maritime Forum, Marlett Balmer, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and George van Rensburg, Keren Energy. The keynote address will be delivered by Thomas Roos from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), who will focus on the study and its focus on Saldanha Bay.

Katrina Abhold, Project Lead – Global Opportunities at the Global Maritime Forum (GMF), works with the maritime industry in shaping the future of global seaborne trade to increase sustainable long-term economic development and human wellbeing. Abhold will examine why Saldanha Bay is a good location for a zero-carbon fuels hub and what creating a zero-carbon fuels infrastructure entails.

Marlett Balmer has more than 25 years’ experience in the renewable energy field and is employed by GIZ in the South African green hydrogen programme focusing on research, innovation, capacity building and green hydrogen sector development. She will explore the community level benefits that could potentially be realised through developing a green hydrogen economy.

### **Board of Directors**

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The Saldanha Bay IDZ Licencing Company SOC Ltd (SBIDZ-LC) is a joint initiative of the Department Trade & Industry (the dti), the Western Cape Government’s Department of Economic Development & Tourism (DEDAT), and the Saldanha Bay Municipality (SBM).

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\*Board Chairperson

George van Rensburg, managing director of Keren Energy, a developer of energy projects, will discuss the hydrogen research, development and innovation space in South Africa and the company's project in Vredendal.

The Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone's Innovation Campus serves to convene research, development and innovation partners across communities, academia, and the public and private sectors to create sustainable impact. In doing so, industry players are empowered to become agents of innovation and co-create solutions to the most pressing challenges within their sectors.

Webinar Registration link:

[https://universe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8CgQexjkObWLxzDNfHN-1g](https://universe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8CgQexjkObWLxzDNfHN-1g)



2<sup>nd</sup> Energy Transition Webinar:

Date: 12 April 2022

Time: 13:00-14:30