



JOHANNESBURG

2025 Summit Guide

Deep Tech, Enterprise & Fintech

26 March 2025

 www.africarena.com

WELCOME

Welcome to the ninth live edition of the AfricArena Tour, where we are leading the way in blending digital and in-person tech experiences throughout the African continent.

Our summit and associated events present a distinctive chance to explore current and emerging tech trends while highlighting Africa's most outstanding startups and innovators. Covering five regions, AfricArena has brought together prominent figures from both global and African tech scenes, advocating for excellence in African technology. Past editions have seen over 700 attendees, more than 60 speakers, and upwards of US\$880 million in significant deals.

This one-day summit will connect over 20 top African startups with global investors, showcasing the continent's innovative capabilities.

Thanks to our valued tech ecosystem partners, Johannesburg has emerged as Africa's leading Tech Capital, featuring over 20 founders and exemplifying the continent's tech leadership.

As we aim for a collaborative, pan-African approach to innovation - dedicated to creating an environment that promotes positive change. This year's Johannesburg Summit is set to provide the ultimate platform for accelerating the growth of African tech startups in Fintech, Deep Tech and Enterprise.



22 On Sloane | Johannesburg



20 + Founders | 30+ Speakers



Over 100 in person attendees throughout 1 day

WHAT IS AFRICARENA?

AfricArena plays a unique and key role in unifying Tech Startups, Corporations, and Investors.



Strengthen

Strengthening the international traction of Africa's most innovative tech startups.



Connect

Connecting founders with investors and corporations.



Promote

Attracting both entrepreneurs and investors to Africa.



Attract

Promoting the African Tech ecosystem and its opportunities.

PROGRAM OF THE WEEK

Alongside the AfricArena Summit, we have tailored exposure events where we create even more opportunities for startups and investors to connect with one another.

AfricArise Founder's Bootcamp 23 - 25 March 2025

The AfricArise Deal Flow Founder's Bootcamp 2025 accelerates founders' knowledge in key areas overlooked by other programs to prepare startups for the summit.



AfricArena Wired Speed Connect 25 March 2025

The AfricArena Wired Speed Connect is a speed networking event for LPs, GPs, and startups held after the summit to facilitate connections and potential collaborations among participants.

The AfricArena VC Night 25 March 2025

The AfricArena Johannesburg VC Night cocktail event will be held on the night of the 25th of March at an exclusive venue in Sandton at the heart of the investment and banking world and Africa's richest square mile.



AfricArena Johannesburg Summit 26 March 2025

The mission of the AfricArena Summit is to bring together the leading corporates and investors investing in the continent's tech-ecosystem, with the most talented entrepreneurs from across Africa.

EVENT LOGISTICS

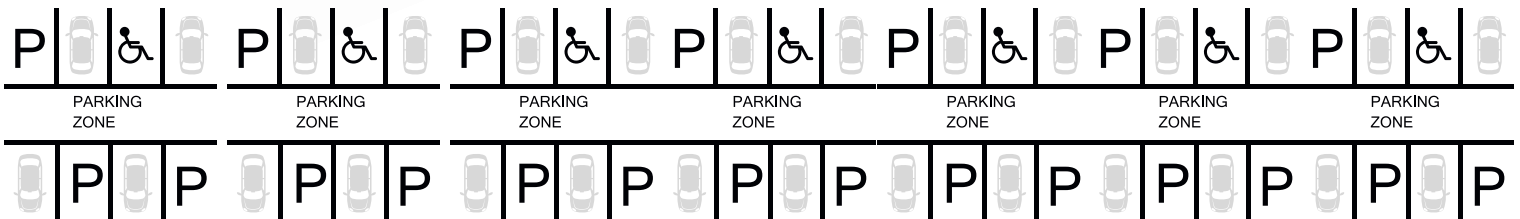
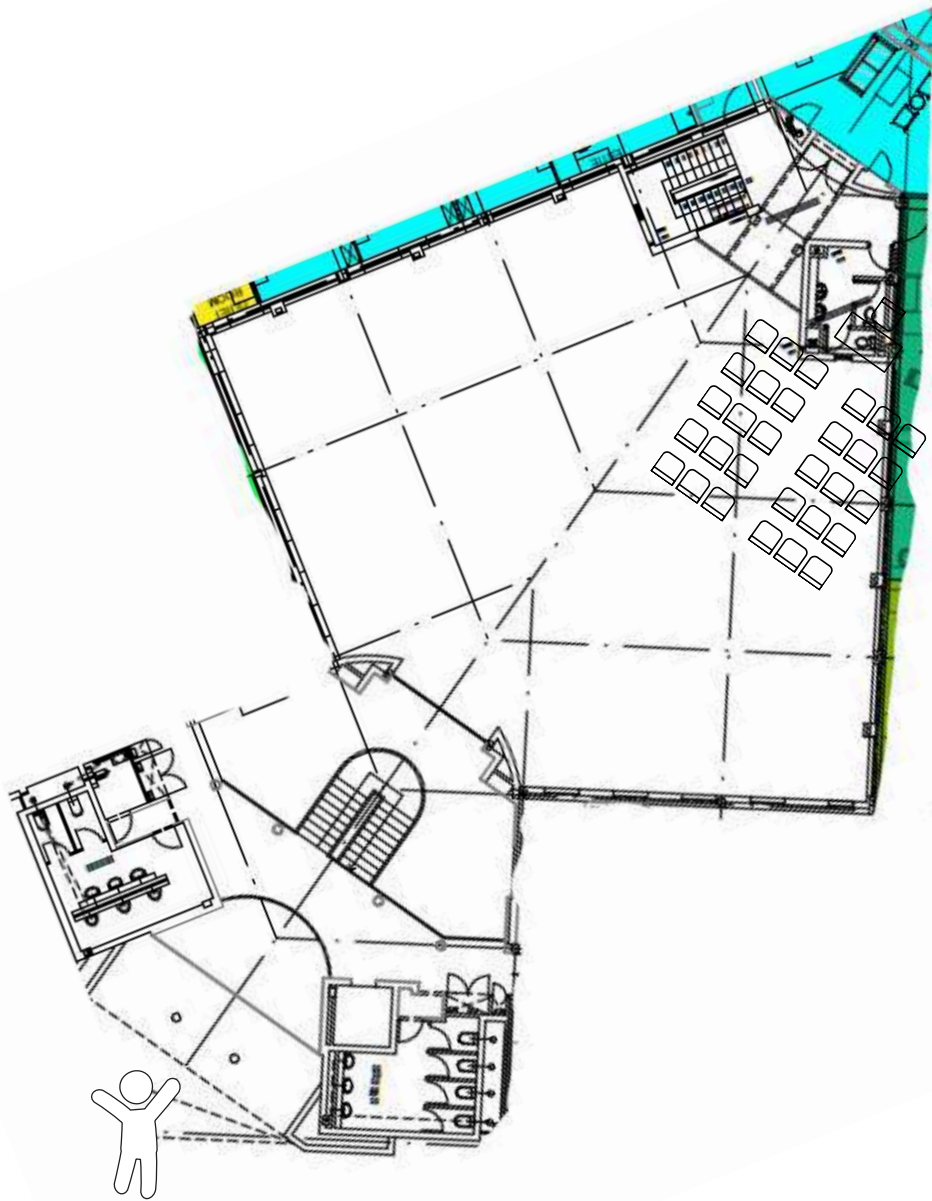
This year's AfricArena Johannesburg Fintech, Deep Tech & Enterprise Summit is taking place at Africa's largest startup campus, 22 On Sloane.

There is parking in the same venue for delegates attending the summit.

Venue & Parking:
22 Sloane St, Bryanston, Sandton, Johannesburg 2191



FLOOR PLAN 22 ON SLOANE



SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY ONE - Wednesday 26 March 2025

All times are SAST (South African Standard Time, GMT+2)

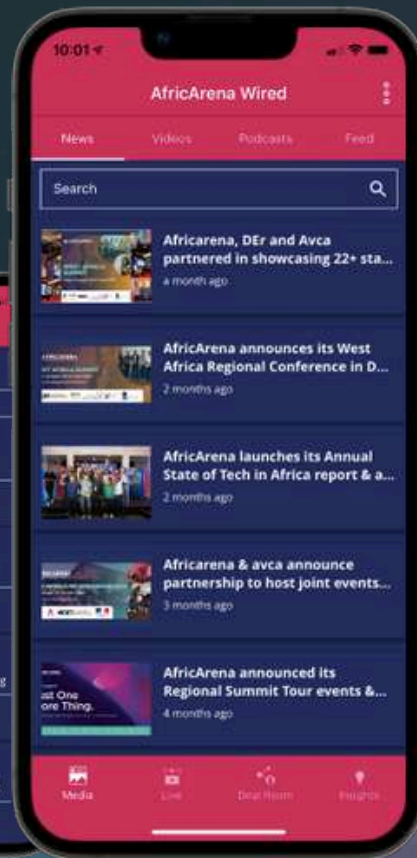
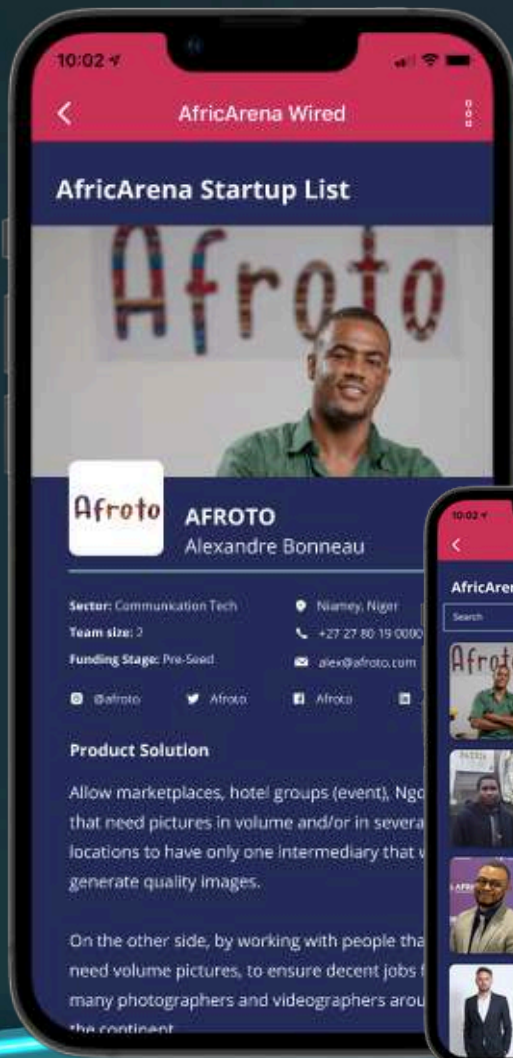
- 09:15 AM** **GUESTS ARRIVE AND MINGLE**
- 09:30 AM** MC Welcome and Wake Up
- 09:40 AM** AfricArena Welcome - Dan Mabbyalas - Head of Product
- 09:50 AM** Word from sponsors
- 10:00 AM** Keynote: State of Tech
- 10:15 AM** Panel Discussion: The State of Tech in Africa
- 10:55 AM** Keynote: Deep tech & Hardware Technologies : The Future of Innovation and Why It Matters
- 11:05 AM** Panel Discussion: Big Impact: How Africa's Deep-Tech Startups Are Shaping the World
- 11:35 AM** Pitch Challenges: Deep Tech
- 12:15 PM** **LUNCH & NETWORKING**
- 13:15 PM** Sector Focused Panel: How Blockchain and Stablecoins Are Changing Cross-Border Payments
- 13:55 PM** Pitch Challenges: Fintech
- 14:25 PM** Founders Keynote: The Founder's Journey: From Idea to Impactful
- 14:40 PM** Pitch Challenges: Enterprise
- 15:20 PM** Panel Discussion: From Pilot to Scale: How AI Funding Drives Enterprise and Corporate Innovation
- 15:50 PM** Pitch Challenges: Agnostic
- 16:30 PM** Investor Pitch: Reverse Challenge
- 17:00 PM** Award Ceremony
- 17:30 PM** **END OF DAY**



Welcome to AfricArena Wired

The African Tech Ecosystem at the palm of your hand.

A reimagined and innovative way of connecting african tech founders, investors, partners, mentors and ecosystem players.



PITCH PROGRAMS

Pitch Track: Enterprise



Oneway Connect

Oneway Connect simplifies hiring with AI matching technology to automate and streamline the recruitment process for faster, more efficient hiring.



Funti3r

Funti3r is a blockchain and AI-powered workforce platform connecting businesses with verified global talent. With smart contract payments, verifiable credentials, and AI-driven matching, it streamlines hiring and reduces costs, shaping the future of work in Africa and beyond.



AgroHub

AgroHub is a dynamic platform connecting farmers, tech providers, and experts to drive precision farming in Lesotho. Featuring a co-working space, podcast studio, and drone showroom, it fosters innovation and knowledge-sharing. By bridging traditional farming with cutting-edge technology, AgroHub is transforming agriculture and promoting sustainable growth in the region.

Pitch Track: Deep Tech & AI



Fabe Dx

Fabe DX, an LLM powered online platform that offers personalized guidance, AI-driven recommendations, and expert support to help small and medium-sized businesses adopt the right technologies and achieve sustainable growth.



Cureroot

A drug discovery firm intended to combat global health challenges. The company leverages traditional plant knowledge, artificial intelligence, and automated lab processes, to curate a drug pipeline, by using African flora, enabling the health industry to address the challenges of superbugs and emerging viruses.



PITCH PROGRAMS

Pitch Track: Enterprise



AVEADE

Aveade is a technology company specializing in online marketplaces, advertising, distribution, and logistics. Focused on B2B2C, we provide advanced solutions to help businesses thrive. Our mission is to make products and services accessible to all, adding value to both people and businesses while prioritizing customer needs.



SB CARD PTY LTD

Smart Business Card® is transforming professional networking with its contactless, NFC-enabled business card solution. Designed for modern professionals, this innovative card allows users to instantly share their contact details, website, and social media links with a simple tap on any NFC-enabled device—eliminating the need for outdated paper business cards.

Pitch Track: FinTech



eQub

eQub digitizes Ethiopia's traditional "equb" savings model, offering a secure platform for collective saving and lending. Through mobile-based groups, it enhances financial inclusion and credit access, bridging the gap between traditional banking and underserved communities.



eLime Digital

eLime Digital specializes in Business Process Improvement through AI and Business Analysis, helping businesses optimize operations. They automate processes, enhance data accuracy, and improve collaboration, enabling better decision-making and real-time data analysis.



Paygenius

PayGenius is an innovative payment platform enabling businesses to process secure, efficient transactions. With support for multiple payment methods and easy integration, it helps startups, SMEs, and enterprises streamline payments and enhance the customer experience.



BEQY AI

Beqy.ai provides real-time analysis of financial reports, projections, and credit scores. Using AI, it tracks income, expenses, loan repayments, and financial trends. It helps accountants improve report output, enables risk managers to flag and address risks, and supports small businesses in accelerating cash flow.

PITCH PROGRAMS

Pitch Track: Agnostic



Loop

Loop Taxi offers an efficient, sustainable ride-hailing solution using AI-driven routing and electric/hybrid vehicles. It ensures affordability, reliability, and reduced carbon emissions, optimizing fleet efficiency for daily commutes, corporate travel, and last-mile connectivity.



Arimma

Arimma is a South African AI-driven neobank focused on sustainability, offering digital banking services such as savings, lending, and investments. It integrates carbon scoring to help customers assess and reduce their environmental impact while promoting eco-conscious financial decisions. Arimma also provides educational resources and sets new standards for transparent, green banking in Africa.



Metro Farming

Metrofarming uses technology-driven solutions like hydroponics, agrovoltatics, and smart farming to enhance food security and efficiency in urban areas. Founded by Samkelisiwe Chunda, the company focuses on women's empowerment, youth mentorship, and environmental sustainability, shaping the future of agriculture in Africa.



eTips

eTips transforms tipping into a fair, transparent, and empowering experience for service workers. With secure QR codes, workers can receive instant digital payments directly to their user-friendly wallet, making tipping cashless and effortless. More than just appreciation, eTips drives financial inclusion, helping workers manage and grow their earnings with ease.



Royal McGrady

Royal McGrady Ed-Tech is a black-owned start-up focused on interactive, technology-driven STEM education solutions. The company enhances learners' understanding of mathematics and science using cutting-edge tools, including Extended Reality (VR & AR). They also offer software development, data science, and dashboarding services to multinational companies.

EVENT MC



TENDAI PASIPAMIRE

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

ENRICH IN AFRICA CENTER

Tendai Pasipamire is the Partnership & Business Development Manager at ENRICH in Africa Center, driving Africa's tech and innovation support ecosystem.

He is passionate about building connections and strengthening Euro-African partnerships to create real impact for startups, ESOs, and investors.

He has secured major DFI funding for Pan-African research, innovation, and digitalization projects while championing innovation in underserved communities in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Tendai played a key role in developing grassroots innovation programs at Innovate Durban and scaling TechTribe Accelerator into a leading Pan-African mentorship platform.

A natural speaker and facilitator, he has shared his expertise on global stages, including the Innovation Festival and high-level EU-Africa diplomatic forums.

WORD FROM THE SPONSORS

LAWRENCE MUTHONGA
STARTUP ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS) UAE - AFRICA

Lawrence Muthoga is a Startup Account Executive at Amazon Web Services (AWS), where he accelerates digital transformation for startups across the UAE and Africa. With over a decade of experience in tech, he helps founders optimize their digital infrastructure. Before AWS, Lawrence worked at Microsoft, including as Azure Open Source Lead for the Middle East and Africa. He also led Developer Audience and Community initiatives at Microsoft 4Afrika, empowering software developers across Africa. A passionate advocate for emerging market startups, Lawrence has received multiple accolades, including the Microsoft Gold Club EMEA Award and recognition as a semi-finalist in the Google Cloud Developer Challenge.



CHUKA EZENWALIE
AWS DEMAND GENERATION LEAD AND ACCOUNT MANAGER
SILICON OVERDRIVE

Chuka Ezenwalie serves as the Demand Generation Lead and Account Manager at AWS, where he focuses on driving growth and creating opportunities for both startups and enterprises. With a strong background in digital marketing and lead generation, he assists organizations in harnessing AWS solutions to scale and innovate. Additionally, Chuka plays a significant role at Silicon Overdrive, contributing to its mission of empowering the African tech ecosystem. His responsibilities include building strategic relationships and engaging with stakeholders to promote growth in the tech sector. Fueled by his passion for technological innovation and entrepreneurship, Chuka strives to help companies maximize their potential through cloud-based solutions.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

MELVYN LUBEGA
PARTNER
BREEGA

KEYNOTE: THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Melvyn Lubega, an actuary by training and an experienced technology entrepreneur and executive is a Partner at Breega, a full stack fund that propels pioneering and purpose-driven founders from idea into impact. Breega closed their first fund in 2015 and now have +€500m AUM and 100+ trailblazing portfolio companies and invests internationally from Pre-Seed to Series A with a strong footprint in Europe and Africa. Melvyn holds a BSc in Actuarial Science and Statistics and a Master's degree in Education and Public Policy from the University of Oxford.



THABELO RATSHIHULE
CEO
SAVANT (TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR)

KEYNOTE: DEEP TECH & HARDWARE TECHNOLOGIES : THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION AND WHY IT MATTERS.
PANEL: HOW AFRICA'S DEEP-TECH STARTUPS ARE SHAPING THE WORLD

Thabelo Ratshihule is the CEO of Savant Technology Incubator, leading the commercialisation of deep-tech and hardware startups. As an angel investor and associate at the Savant Venture Fund, Thabelo support high-growth ventures through investment, mentorship, and strategic partnerships. Thabelo also manage the Savant TIA Seed Fund, driving pipeline development, investment decisions, and portfolio management, helping startups secure follow-on funding and commercial success. With an MBA and a background in corporate finance and venture building Thabelo is passionate about scaling African innovation in deep tech, and industrial technology.

MATTHEW PIPER
FOUNDER & CPO
KHULA!

FOUNDER'S KEYNOTE: THE FOUNDER'S JOURNEY: FROM IDEA TO IMPACTFUL

Matthew Piper, based in Johannesburg, is currently a founder and Chief People Officer at KHULA!. Matthew Piper brings experience from previous roles at MoneyTree Group, Allan Gray Orbis Foundation and Made with Rural. Matthew Piper holds a BCom in Economics and Finance from the University of the Witwatersrand and he has a robust skill set that includes Entrepreneurship, Public Speaking, Investments, Business Innovation, Accounting and more.



SPEAKERS

JADE BUCKTON

SENIOR INVESTMENT ASSOCIATE & PORTFOLIO MANAGER
27FOUR INVESTMENT MANAGERS



PANEL MODERATOR : THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Jade Buckton is a Senior Investment Associate and Portfolio Manager at 27four Investment Managers, with prior experience at Goodwell Investments focusing on high-impact investments in sub-Saharan Africa. She contributed to the ESG team and has a background as an economist at the South African National Treasury, emphasizing social issues. Jade co-founded "Future Fridays," a networking series for young professionals promoting positive business impacts. She holds a BCom in Economics and Finance and is pursuing an MCom in Applied Economics at the University of Cape Town.



JANICE JOHNSTON

CEO
EDGE GROWTH VENTURES

PANEL: THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Janice Johnston is the CEO of Edge Growth Ventures, with over 25 years of investment experience across South Africa and the UK. She has extensive expertise in debt, venture capital, and private equity across various sectors and business stages. A CFA Charterholder, Janice leads impact investments focused on climate finance and innovative businesses with strong environmental and social potential. She is passionate about driving financial returns through collaboration, diversity, and inclusion in key growth sectors.

ANDREW DARGE

INVESTMENT MANAGER
E3 CAPITAL

PANEL: THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Andrew Darge is an Investment Manager at E3 Capital, handling deal origination, execution, and portfolio management. He has worked on transactions across Africa (South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Egypt) and in India, Colombia, and Indonesia, covering sectors like agribusiness, fintech, logistics, connectivity, and energy. He also consulted on digital infrastructure projects in emerging markets. Andrew holds a BSc in Finance and a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting from the University of Cape Town and is a qualified CA(SA) and CFA Charterholder.



SPEAKERS

BAKANG KOMANYANE
PRINCIPAL
E4E AFRICA VENTURES



PANEL: THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Bakang is an experienced investment professional with 17+ years in real estate, private equity, and venture capital across North America, Europe, and Africa. He holds a BA in Economics from Harvard University. Currently Principal at E4E Africa Ventures in Cape Town, Bakang manages deal-making, including sourcing, execution, and due diligence, and has closed over 20 early-stage businesses. Previously, as Senior Investment Associate at a \$100m Pan-African gender-lens fund, he contributed to sourcing, evaluating, and managing investments in agritech, fintech, and healthcare. Bakang is passionate about innovation's role in driving Africa's economic development and improving lives.



DRISHA KIRKMAN
HEAD OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
PAYMENTOLOGY

PANEL: THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Drisha Kirkman is the Head of Programme Management and Sustainability at Paymentology, overseeing global end-to-end card solutions. With 18+ years in the card payment industry, she has led the deployment of innovative card programmes, including the world's first companion card. Beyond programme management, Drisha drives diversity, inclusion, and social impact initiatives in fintech. She is passionate about empowering female leaders and mentoring disadvantaged students. A regular global conference speaker, Drisha has been recognized as one of the Top 200 young South Africans in business and a Forty under 40 achiever.

AXEL PERRIERE
CEO & CO-FOUNDER
AUTO24.AFRICA



PANEL: THE STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Axel Perriere is the co-founder & CEO of Africar Group / AUTO24.africa, Africa's largest and most trusted online used car marketplace, backed by Stellantis. With operations in 5 countries and plans to expand to 20+, Axel is redefining car ownership across Africa. A passionate entrepreneur and angel investor, he has partnered with over 200 startups across 50+ countries, driving innovation in emerging markets. Axel excels in tech-enabled businesses and online marketplaces. He thrives on mentoring founders, scaling startups, and empowering others to build impactful ecosystems in fast-growing economies.

SPEAKERS

JO EYRE

FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
VOXEON COMMUNICATIONS

PANEL MODERATOR : HOW AFRICA'S DEEP-TECH STARTUPS ARE SHAPING THE WORLD

Jo Eyre, has spent the past 18 years advising startups, governments and some of the world's most well known corporations. Having led marketing and communications teams at organisations such as Epic Games, Opera Software and Omnipresent, Jo has a love for the intersection of tech, storytelling and digital anthropology. Jo is the Founder and MD of Voxeon Communications, an impact-led international communications agency providing conscious comms and marketing for tech founders and innovators. Jo and her team work with organisations that are making the world a better place, helping to navigate the noise, amplify their voices and lead authentic conversations that will build a better tomorrow.



THAPELO NTHITE
CO-FOUNDER & CEO
BOTLHALE AI

PANEL: HOW AFRICA'S DEEP-TECH STARTUPS ARE SHAPING THE WORLD

Thapelo Nthite is the Co-Founder and CEO of Botl Hale AI, an award-winning startup focused on natural language processing for African languages. He launched the company while at university, growing it to a 20-person team and securing nearly US\$1 million in funding, attracting major clients like MTN and MultiChoice. A Mechatronics Engineering graduate from UCT, Thapelo is dedicated to digital inclusion and has had his AI research published by IEEE. He is also a mentor at START Global and a passionate runner, completing four marathons and the Two Oceans Ultra Marathon.

AXEL PERRIERE

CEO & CO-FOUNDER
AUTO24.AFRICA

PANEL: HOW AFRICA'S DEEP-TECH STARTUPS ARE SHAPING THE WORLD

Ayesha Bayat is a leader in digital education and entrepreneurship, driving innovation through DigiYouth Africa and advocating for women and social inclusion. As a chartered accountant, she has co-founded successful startups and implemented impactful programs. At DigiYouth Africa, she develops curricula and empowers youth with essential skills. She co-founded Sizawena to support informal artisans with training and market access. As Chief Entrepreneurship Officer at the Pan African Chamber of Commerce, she promotes entrepreneurship and leads Startup Huddle Durban to foster startup communities. Ayesha is dedicated to shaping an inclusive future in education and entrepreneurship in South Africa.



SPEAKERS

DR. GARGI MISHRA

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

WOMEN IN MINING BUSINESS | WIMBIZ SA

PANEL: HOW AFRICA'S DEEP-TECH STARTUPS ARE SHAPING THE WORLD

With 22 years of transformative experience across global cultures and industries, Dr. Gargi has established herself as a pioneering strategic advisor who bridges complex challenges through innovative thinking and forward-looking solutions. Her professional journey is defined by an exceptional ability to connect people, processes, and technology to develop strategic frameworks that drive organizational resilience and competitive advantage. Working closely with CEOs and executive teams, she translates intricate conceptual insights into pragmatic, actionable strategies that position businesses to thrive in rapidly evolving digital landscapes.



MARIANA OSÓRIO DE CASTRO

SENIOR INVESTMENT ASSOCIATE

EDGE GROWTH VENTURES

PANEL MODERATOR : HOW BLOCKCHAIN AND STABLECOINS ARE CHANGING CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Mariana Osório de Castro is a Senior Investment Associate at Edge Growth Ventures, specializing in venture capital and impact-driven investments in emerging markets. With experience in investment advisory and strategic consulting, Mariana focuses on unlocking catalytic, impact-first capital. She has also worked as a Visiting Investment Professional at E3 Capital, contributing to decentralized, decarbonized business models. Mariana is an active member of Global Women in VC and A&A Collective. Passionate about driving change, she leverages her expertise to support the growth of sustainable ventures.

SHAUN BRICK

PRODUCT & GROWTH

SUMMIT

PANEL: HOW BLOCKCHAIN AND STABLECOINS ARE CHANGING CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Shaun Brick is a fintech strategist and product growth expert, driven by a passion for innovation and problem-solving. As an early team member at Summit, he leverages cutting-edge technologies to accelerate product growth, business development, and operational efficiency. Shaun is currently pursuing a Master's in Fintech at the University of Cape Town, gaining expertise in technology, finance, statistics, and computer science. With a deep understanding of the evolving fintech landscape, he is committed to shaping the future of digital finance and driving impactful change.



SPEAKERS

PAUL CROWLEY

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE
MOMINT

PANEL: HOW BLOCKCHAIN AND STABLECOINS ARE CHANGING CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Paul Crowley is a Web3 strategist, digital storyteller, and cultural curator blending technology with creativity. As Social Media Specialist at Momint, he plays a key role in driving engagement and shaping Web3 narratives across Africa. Paul crafts campaigns that educate and onboard users into decentralized technology. His expertise extends beyond Web3 through Couch Build, where he merges art, tech, and storytelling. Additionally, through Imagine Crowley, he champions bold, imaginative expression. Paul is passionate about empowering African creators and communities in the digital revolution. His insights bridge the gap between innovation and impact.



WINSTON REID

CEO
ALVIN TECHNOLOGIES

PANEL: HOW BLOCKCHAIN AND STABLECOINS ARE CHANGING CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Winston Reid is the Founder and CEO of Alvin Technologies, which aims to increase financial access in Africa through consumer and embedded enterprise products. With a venture capital background, he tackles financial challenges in emerging markets. As a TEDx speaker, he promotes authenticity and societal contribution. Winston is committed to recruiting diverse talent and fostering innovation at Alvin Technologies, transforming financial management to be more accessible and efficient.

PRETTY KUBYANE

CO-FOUNDER
EFAMA APP

PANEL: HOW BLOCKCHAIN AND STABLECOINS ARE CHANGING CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Pretty Kubyane is a multi-award-winning entrepreneur and Tech Lead, co-founding eFama App at a young age influenced by her father's business ventures. With over 20 certifications in various tech fields, she aims to transform Africa's agricultural supply chain by connecting farmers and buyers. eFama has gained support from notable organizations like the NEAR Foundation and AWS. Recognized as a Rising Star in 2022, Pretty is a prominent advocate for technology's social impact, driving innovation and community empowerment in Africa.



SPEAKERS

LORIEN GAMAROFF

CEO

CENTBEE



PANEL: HOW BLOCKCHAIN AND STABLECOINS ARE CHANGING CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Lorien Gamaroff is the CEO of Centbee, a blockchain payments company, and a Bitcoin Association ambassador. A leading blockchain expert, he has advised international organisations like the UN and IMF on digital currencies. Gamaroff frequently speaks at conferences and in media, offering insights on blockchain to governments and businesses worldwide.



MILISA MABINZA

UK SA TECH HUB DIRECTOR

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

PANEL MODERATOR: FROM PILOT TO SCALE: HOW AI FUNDING DRIVES ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE INNOVATION

Milisa is a tech ecosystem builder with eight years of experience supporting South African startups and SMMEs. She has a background in accounting and investment management and is pursuing an MBA in digital transformation. As Director of the UK-South African Tech Hub, she has launched capacity-building programs for major tech startups, focusing on AI policy, digital skills training, and market access initiatives like the Startup Act Movement. Recognized as one of South Africa's Top 200 Young People in 2021, she advocates for collaboration among government, private sector, and educational institutions to enhance digital policy and inclusive growth.

LORRAINE MUTAMBIANWA

CONSULTANT & LEADERSHIP COACH

PANEL: FROM PILOT TO SCALE: HOW AI FUNDING DRIVES ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE INNOVATION

Lorraine Mutambiranwa is a dynamic management consultant focused on helping businesses turn strategy into actionable results. With leadership experience in various sectors, she excels in guiding organizations through transformation. As a coach, she collaborates with founders and leadership teams to refine their vision and build high-performing organizations. Currently pursuing an MPhil in Leadership at the University of Stellenbosch, her research evaluates the impact of AI coaching on entrepreneurs' short-term goal achievement, aiming to support entrepreneurs across Africa.



SPEAKERS

NORMA MNGOMA
CEO
SUITABLY NORMA

PANEL: FROM PILOT TO SCALE: HOW AI FUNDING DRIVES ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE INNOVATION

Norma Mngoma is the Business Development Executive at Gijima Technologies and the CEO of Suitably Norma. With a wealth of experience in driving business growth, she specializes in strategic partnerships and market expansion, particularly in the tech industry. Norma is passionate about creating innovative solutions and delivering customer-focused results. Her leadership skills and vision have allowed her to successfully navigate complex business environments, driving both internal and external success. Norma is committed to helping businesses leverage technology for long-term growth and sustainable development.



CLIVE BUTKOW
MANAGING PARTNER & FOUNDER
CONDUCTIVE CAPITAL

PANEL: FROM PILOT TO SCALE: HOW AI FUNDING DRIVES ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE INNOVATION

Clive has 28 years of management consulting experience, including leadership roles at Accenture South Africa. He founded Kalon Venture Partners in 2014 and co-founded Conducive Capital to raise US\$50 million for African tech startups. Clive mentors tech businesses to scale globally and supports startups, incubators, and accelerators in South Africa. He is dedicated to entrepreneurial transformation and is a trusted advisor in the South African venture capital industry, making a significant impact on the future of startups in Africa.

KENEILWE MOKOKA
SENIOR INTEGRATION DEVELOPER & DIRECTOR
MAFATSHE SS

PANEL: FROM PILOT TO SCALE: HOW AI FUNDING DRIVES ENTERPRISE AND CORPORATE INNOVATION

Keneilwe has spent the last ten years working as an integration and BPM developer in various industries, including finance, agriculture, telecommunications, and mining around the world. She recently established her own company, Mafatshe System Solutions, where she provides integration and BPM consultancy services. Keneilwe has also completed her Master of Science degree in Artificial Intelligence from the University of the Witwatersrand and plans to launch an AI division in her company in 2025, concentrating on computer vision.



PITCH JUDGES

SAM STODEL
PROJECT MANAGER
GRINDSTONE XL

JUDGE: DEEP TECH & AI

Sam Stodel is responsible for managing the Grindstone programs and maintaining important relationships with key stakeholders to ensure everything runs seamlessly. Since early 2022, Sam has been a valuable member of the Thinkroom Consulting Team, contributing across various aspects of the business. My primary areas of focus include program management, event coordination, impact reporting, operations, marketing, and collaboration across teams.



MUHAMMED MALEK
INVESTMENT PROFESSIONAL
HLAYISANI CAPITAL

JUDGE: DEEP TECH & AI

Muhammed Malek is an experienced Private Banker with a proven track record in the banking industry. He excels in investment advisory, communication, sales presentations, marketing, and private banking, making him a versatile finance professional. Muhammed holds a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) with honors in financial and digital media marketing from the University of the Witwatersrand. His expertise combines a strong foundation in finance with strategic insights into modern marketing, enabling him to deliver exceptional service and solutions for his clients.

BENJAMIN DRYDEN
CO-FOUNDER
SUMMIT

JUDGE: FINTECH

Ben Dryden is an entrepreneur with expertise in M&A, Venture Capital, and Private Equity. Frustrated by outdated fundraising methods, he co-founded Summit.Deals, a platform that uses technology and AI to streamline fundraising and investing in private markets. Summit helps Founders access global funding from a network managing over US\$8 billion, while VCs and PE funds efficiently source and invest in deals. Previously, Ben worked at Rise, a boutique M&A firm, focusing on private equity buyouts, growth-stage fundraising, and international structuring.



PITCH JUDGES

NICOLAS MUGISHA
HEAD OF STRATEGY & SPECIAL PROJECTS
ALTVEST CAPITAL

JUDGE: FINTECH

Nicolas Mugisha has over seven years of experience in operations and strategy, focusing on operational improvement and digital innovation in financial services. As Head of Strategy and Special Products at Altvest Capital Ltd, he launched platforms for investing in assets and facilitating SME loans, mobilizing over R20 million in equity and enabling R240 million in loans. He is also a member of the Investment Committee for the Altvest Credit Opportunities Fund. Previously, he was Head of Operations at BankerX, impacting over 100,000 community members through financial literacy initiatives. His consulting experience at Boston Consulting Group included strategic planning and operational excellence across various industries.



SANJAY SONI
CHIEF VENTURE ARCHITECT
JOZI ANGELS

JUDGE: FINTECH

Sanjay Soni is a seasoned entrepreneur, venture builder, business strategist, chartered accountant, investor & advisor and board member with over 30 years of professional experience across diverse sectors. He has founded and co-founded multiple startup enterprises, navigating the dynamic landscape of innovation and business creation. As a seasoned executive, Sanjay provides strategic counsel to multi-nationals, large corporations, SMEs and startup enterprises. He is deeply embedded in the startup and early-stage ecosystem, fulfilling multiple roles as not only an investor, but also a mentor, advisor, angel investor, venture builder and advocate for budding entrepreneurs. Sanjay is currently part of the executive team at Jozi Angels – a leading angel investment group on the African continent. Jozi Angels have participated in over 55 transactions since its formation in 2017. Sanjay holds a BCom in Accounting from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a BCom (Hons) in Accounting from UNISA.

PITCH JUDGES

TERISHA RAJAGOPAL
PROJECT PORTFOLIO ANALYST
LAUNCH AFRICA VENTURES

JUDGE: FINTECH

Terisha Rajagopal is a Portfolio Analyst at Launch Africa, specializing in financial audit, data analysis, project portfolio management, and post-investment support. With a background in the FMCG industry, Terisha brings a strong analytical approach to evaluating investments and optimizing portfolio performance. Currently completing an Honours degree, Terisha is committed to continuous learning and leveraging financial insights to drive strategic growth.



RITA BAPTISTA
VENTURE BUILDER - OPERATIONS
E SQUARED INVESTMENTS

JUDGE: ENTERPRISE

Rita Baptista is an experienced operations and logistics professional with a strong career in leadership roles, including Regional Manager and General Manager. She has a proven track record of enhancing organizational efficiency and performance through strategic change management, cost reduction, and process optimization. Rita excels in building and mentoring high-performing teams across various areas, emphasizing talent development, collaboration, and sustainable operational frameworks.

LEBO MASHABA
FOUNDER & CEO
REALPPE MARKETPLACE

JUDGE: ENTERPRISE

Lebo Mashaba is an experienced Human Capital Development Specialist with over 20 years in professional growth and leadership, boasting 16 years of success in management and entrepreneurship. Lebo holds an MBA, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management, and several certifications, including Professional Director and Skills Development Facilitator. Passionate about education and youth development, she founded History Makers, impacting over 6,000 learners. As Executive Director of RealPPE Marketplace, she demonstrates her entrepreneurial skills with a focus on sustainable solutions. A forward-thinking leader and dynamic speaker, she actively influences strategic decisions on various boards to drive impactful initiatives.



PITCH JUDGES

MARIANA OSÓRIO DE CASTRO
SENIOR INVESTMENT ASSOCIATE
EDGE GROWTH VENTURES



JUDGE: ENTERPRISE

Mariana Osório de Castro is a Senior Investment Associate at Edge Growth Ventures, specializing in venture capital and impact-driven investments in emerging markets. With experience in investment advisory and strategic consulting, Mariana focuses on unlocking catalytic, impact-first capital. She has also worked as a Visiting Investment Professional at E3 Capital, contributing to decentralized, decarbonized business models. Mariana is an active member of Global Women in VC and A&A Collective. Passionate about driving change, she leverages her expertise to support the growth of sustainable ventures



TAMALA AMELIA MANDA
INVESTMENT ASSOCIATE
HLAYISANI CAPITAL

JUDGE: AGNOSTIC

Tamala Amelia Manda is an Investment Associate at Hlayisani Capital with six years of experience, including four in early-stage investments. She holds a PhD in Finance from Wits University, where she also teaches Real Estate Asset Management and supervises postgraduate students. Tamala has contributed to transactions in fintech, renewable energy, edtech, and agritech. Passionate about education, she volunteers as a Sunday school teacher and recently completed her first marathon in 2024. She values connecting with people and making a positive impact on their lives.

PETER PARADZA
POST INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
E SQUARED INVESTMENTS



JUDGE: ENTERPRISE

Peter Paradza is a Portfolio Manager, specializing in growth strategy, innovation, and value creation currently operating within the Venture Capital and Private Equity industry. An entrepreneurial leader, Peter manages a diverse portfolio of entities, each operating at a distinct stage of development, and requiring tailored strategic support to unlock enterprise value. He has a multi-sector focus, and his current portfolio encompasses investments in high-growth sectors such as Renewable Energy, BioTech, Fintech, Sustainability & Agriculture, and Healthcare.

PITCH JUDGES

ZANELE ABRAHAM MATOME

CEO & FOUNDER

WELO

JUDGE: ENTERPRISE

Zanele Abraham Matome is the founder of Welo Health. A HealthTech startup solving the problem of access to health, empowered by Human touch and Technology. Operating nationwide in South Africa and expanding further in the SADC Region. Zanele spent her formative entrepreneurial years as a Mining Contractor for over 13 years working with major Mining houses in South Africa. Zanele has spoken at Harvard, GIBS, Oxford and other Institutions on entrepreneurship and the impact it plays in the developing world. She is a mom of three who spends her time on travel, reading and community empowerment activities in the African Continent.



LAURENT KULIGHA AMBROSE

INVESTMENT MANAGER

CLOSE THE GAP, KENYA

JUDGE: AGNOSTIC

Laurent Kuligha Ambrose has over five years' experience as a venture builder. Managing the Close the Gap Impact Accelerator, his focus is on bridging the digital divide by empowering local enterprises with essential IT resources coupled with impact financing and business strategies. In parallel, mentoring at Hatua Network allows him to foster the next generation of leaders by sharing insights and honing their presentation abilities.



ACCELERATING INNOVATION

From Africa to Europe

Methys is a unique international technology firm with expertise in Digital, Business Intelligence, Private Equity and Acceleration Services. We pride ourselves in consistent innovation and facilitate collaborative engagement between corporate, investors and start-ups. Our footprint reaches across the globe with a presence from Africa to Europe.

www.methys.com

CAPE TOWN | STELLENBOSCH | JOHANNESBURG | TUNIS | PARIS | LUXEMBOURG | LONDON

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

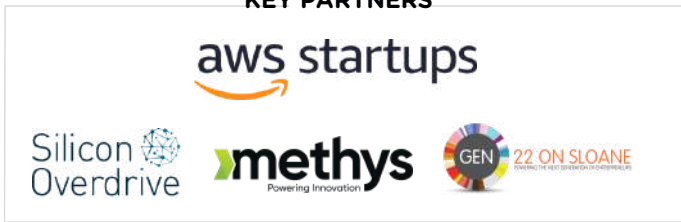
2024



AFRICARENA
THE AFRICAN TECH ECOSYSTEM ACCELERATOR

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

KEY PARTNERS



INVESTOR PARTNERS



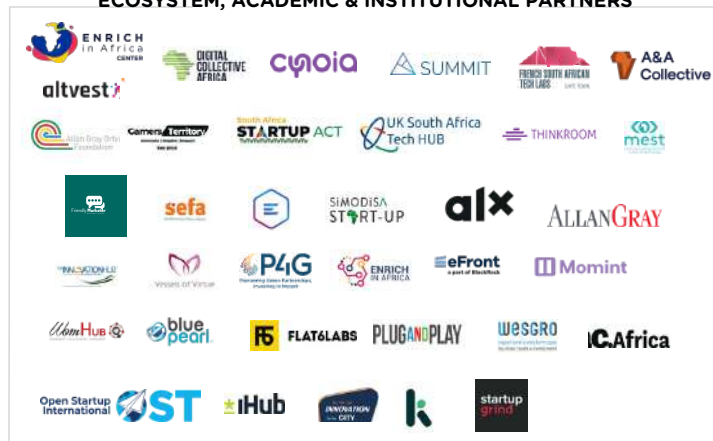
AFRICARENA TOUR PARTNERS



INVESTORS PARTICIPATING



ECOSYSTEM, ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



AfricArena accelerates African ecosystems 365 days a year on AfricArena Wired.



SUMMIT TEAM CONTACTS

EVENT DIRECTOR

Christophe Viarnaud

christophe@africarena.com | +27 83 254 8867 | +33 68 626 4267

OPERATIONS & PROJECT MANAGER

Sarah Kitwanga

sarah@africarena.co.za | +27 76 270 5209

HEAD OF CONTENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Nafisah Abrahams

nafisah@africarena.com | +27 74 730 6780

HEAD OF PROGRAMS

Dan Mabbyalas

dan@africarena.com | +27 69 746 4826

PRODUCT SUPPORT LEAD

Malamu Kiyombo

malamu@africarena.co.za | +27 65 241 3833

SOCIAL MEDIA & AMPLIFICATION LEAD

Botlhale Seremo

botlhale@africarena.com | +27 84 917 0206

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

Jabulile Ngwenya

jngwenya@methys.com | +27 76 890 8956

STARTUP & VC ANALYST

Sisipho Fongoqa

sisipho@africarena.com | +27 64 672 4022