



MEDIA RELEASE

R10 bn Limpopo Eco-Industrial Park set to redefine growth trajectory of region

23 July 2018, Johannesburg. South Africa – and Africa’s – first zero solid waste eco-industrial park was launched in Johannesburg today. Set to attract over R10 billion in initial CAPEX investment, the Limpopo Eco-Industrial Park (LEIP) has been designed as a viable solution to industrial development, representing a collective and sustainable vision for the province. With a further R5.4 bn estimated to flow into the region per year during the initial operation phase, and over 101 000 jobs to potentially be created during the first five years of construction, the LEIP will fundamentally change the region’s current growth trajectory and contribute significantly to South Africa’s strategic development goals. It speaks directly to the multi-billion US\$ investment target set by the President for the country in the short-term.

Designed and developed by Eco-Industrial Solutions (EIS), the Limpopo Eco-Industrial Park (LEIP) will be the continent’s first economically viable, zero solid waste eco-industrial park. The basic infrastructure design phase was officially launched in Johannesburg today, with key signatories and project partners committing to this collective long-term vision of the future for the region.

Located in Musina on over 6 400 hectares between the border town and Beitbridge, the park will feature an integrated nature reserve; two residential eco-estates; 80 chalets on the Limpopo waterfront inside the nature park; the country’s first plasma waste gasifiers; syngas clean-up; two off-channel storage dams (with 20 mil m3 capacity); 200 MW Eskom power supply and an additional 35 MW solar power for housing and agro-processing; emergency services; and a world class logistics service, among others.

A key feature of the park is its design by various ecologists and heritage specialists, with a strong focus on the environment and local communities. “The site layout minimises environmental impact, with over 2 000 hectares allocated as private nature park to preserve environmentally sensitive areas,” explains Deshika Kathawaroo, CEO of Eco-Industrial Solutions. “Sustainable value chain management will be applied throughout, ensuring that the LEIP will contribute to the socio-economic development of the greater Musina municipality, with far reaching socio-economic benefits throughout the province and region.”

Speaking at the event, EIS and LEIP Board Chair Webster Mfebe noted that today’s launch comes just days before the 10th BRICS Summit which will be held in Sandton, Johannesburg – setting the scene for tangible investment opportunities for local and international investors. “It’s an opportune time to showcase a world-class project of this strategic nature that will contribute towards job creation and inclusive economic growth on this scale. The LEIP is an exceptional example of what we as a country and collective are capable of in terms of designing and delivering locally-conceived developmental solutions.”

He additionally highlighted the strategic importance of the project in the greater context of South Africa’s National Development Plan, Industrial Policy Action Plans, Sustainability Development Framework and the Green Economy Plan. “The LEIP will bring much needed beneficiation to the region, attracting both light and heavy industries. It’s location on national transport routes including the N1, giving access to our SADEC



community makes it a particularly attractive option for both local and international investors.”

The park will ensure a sustainable water supply for the LEIP, with bulk floodwater from the Limpopo River being extracted and directed to three off-channel storage dams. Two of these dams have already been approved by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) and the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Kathawaroo notes that while the project will spend R9.9 billion during basic infrastructure construction, a further R5.4 billion is estimated to flow into the region annually during the initial operational phase. “Since 2011 our team has completed over 30 market and feasibility studies to identify potentially viable projects, with prospective local and international manufacturers already being approached to invest.”

Key MOUs signed with Transnet, SAFCEC (the South African Forum for Civil Engineering Contractors), LEDA and Lepelle Northern Water will pave the way for the first phase of development, with transformation, local job creation, and skills development and transfer critical priorities. There will be a strong focus on SMME participation, ensuring both start-ups and existing small suppliers are appropriately supported through integrated enterprise and supplier development programmes.

“Part of the new global industry best practice we want to create is to redefine how developers, suppliers, industry bodies and higher education bodies work together on mega-projects such as the LEIP using them as a real opportunity for transformation, socio-economic change and sustainability,” says Mfebe. “These projects need to be undertaken in harmony with the environment such that they ensure legacy impact in a region – which all LEIP partners have committed to today. We look forward to working with Government, public and private enterprises and the local community to make this project a reality.”

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About Eco-Industrial Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Eco-Industrial Solutions (Pty) Ltd (EIS) is a 61% Black-owned project development company specialising in sustainable industrial solutions.

EIS’ vision is to revolutionise the industrial development pathway through the application of practical design concepts and principles derived from the field of Industrial Ecology, which integrates benefits into local communities and the environment with techno-economically viable projects. Its flagship project, the Limpopo Eco-Industrial Park is well on its way to becoming a reality.

For more information on Eco-Industrial Solutions or the LEIP, please visit www.limpopoecoindustrialpark.com.

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