



merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The merSETA Opens Applications for 2026/2027 Discretionary Grant Funding Windows

To: All Media

Attention: Media Houses, News Editors/Journalists/Manufacturing and Engineering Reporters

JOHANNESBURG, 13 May 2026 – The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) has officially opened applications for the 2026/2027 Discretionary Grant (DG) Funding Windows, inviting eligible stakeholders across the manufacturing and engineering sectors to apply for funding aimed at advancing skills development, economic participation, and workforce transformation.

The Discretionary Grant funding windows are implemented in line with the merSETA Grants Policy, Sector Skills Plan (SSP), Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2026/27, and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Service Level Agreement. The initiative seeks to strengthen partnerships with industry, public institutions, organised labour, community organisations and skills development providers to address sectoral and national skills priorities.

For the 2026/2027 financial year, the merSETA has structured the Discretionary Grant process into seven dedicated funding windows aligned to specific stakeholder categories. These include levy-paying employers, non-levy-paying employers and SMMEs, government departments and municipalities, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), industrial parks, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), TVET and CET colleges, NGOs and trade unions, as well as accredited Skills Development Providers (SDPs) and assessment centres.

The funding windows will support a wide range of PIVOTAL and non-PIVOTAL programs, including apprenticeships, learnerships, bursaries, internships, artisan development, occupational skills programs, entrepreneurship and enterprise development initiatives, and township & rural development programs, as well as green economies and Industry 4.0-related skills interventions.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the merSETA website at www.merseta.org.za to access the full DG Funding Windows Guidelines and related application information.

For media-related enquiries:

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About the merSETA:

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) is one of the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) established in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998 to facilitate skills development within the manufacturing and engineering sectors. The merSETA supports skills planning, training, artisan development, and workforce transformation across the metal and engineering, automotive manufacturing, motor retail, tyre manufacturing, plastics manufacturing, and related industries.