

MEDIA RELEASE

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Arm Scor set to participate at the Defence Industry Lekgotla

The Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Arm Scor) will participate at the highly anticipated Defence Industry Lekgotla from 20 to 22 July 2026 at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria.

The three-day strategic gathering will bring together approximately 300 delegates representing government departments, the South African National Defence Force, the defence industry, state-owned entities, academia, policymakers, investors and designated groups. The Lekgotla aims to provide a strategic platform to diagnose structural challenges, identify critical interdependencies across the South African defence ecosystem and develop practical, collaborative solutions to strengthen the sector.

The initiative seeks to foster a whole-of-government approach to addressing systemic challenges while positioning the South African Defence Industry (SADI) as a key enabler of national security, industrialisation, innovation, economic growth and sustainable job creation. More than a conference, the Defence Industry Lekgotla represents a decisive step towards rebuilding a resilient, transformed and globally competitive defence industry.

"The South African defence industry remains a strategic national asset with immense potential to contribute to economic growth, technological advancement and national security. The Defence Industry Lekgotla provides a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to collectively shape a sustainable future for the industry through practical, implementable solutions and a shared national vision," said, Advocate Solomzi Mbada, Chief Executive Officer - Arm Scor.

Proceedings will commence with a scene-setting address by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Angie Motshekga, outlining the strategic direction of the defence sector and its alignment with South Africa's national development priorities.

On the second day, delegates will participate in six concurrent commissions focusing on critical areas, including funding mechanisms, capability development, procurement reform, innovation, localisation, industrial capacity and strategic partnerships. These discussions will culminate in actionable resolutions designed to address the sector's most pressing challenges.

The final day will focus on consolidating the outcomes into formal mandates, measurable resolutions and an implementation roadmap to guide future interventions. The Lekgotla is envisaged as the beginning of an ongoing collaborative process, supported by follow-on engagements that will advance implementation and continuous improvement in support of the National Defence Industry Council.

"The challenges facing the defence industry cannot be addressed in isolation. They require coordinated leadership, strategic partnerships and a commitment from both the public and private sectors. Armscor is committed to facilitating this collaboration and creating an environment where innovation, investment and industrial capability can flourish for the benefit of South Africa," added Advocate Mbada.

As the acquisition agency of the Department of Defence, Armscor remains committed to work with other stakeholders to strengthen partnerships across government, industry and research institutions. The Defence Industry Lekgotla creates opportunities for meaningful collaboration, ability to enhance the competitiveness of the South African Defence Industry and contribute to the country's long-term defence and economic objectives.

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