

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

27 May 2026

Launch of drone training programme to create unlimited opportunities

The Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armcor), in partnership with Ntsu Aviation Academy, officially launched the Drone Pilot Training Programme today, 27 May 2026 as part of its Enterprise and Supplier Development initiative aimed at empowering emerging businesses and advancing socio-economic transformation.

The programme will benefit 10 selected small, medium and micro enterprises, identified through a rigorous recruitment and selection process. The initiative is specifically designed to support enterprises owned by women, youth and beneficiaries linked to military veterans, reinforcing Armcor's commitment to inclusive economic participation and sustainable empowerment.

Over a period of four months, participants will undergo intensive theoretical and practical training at Ntsu Aviation Academy in Midrand, focusing on unmanned aerial vehicle operations and drone technologies. The programme seeks to equip beneficiaries with industry-relevant technical expertise and entrepreneurial capabilities that will enable them to participate competitively in the growing aviation and technology sectors.

Speaking at the launch, Ms Nomkhosi Magwaza, Senior Manager: Transformation at Armcor underscored the importance of strategic partnerships in driving transformation and creating meaningful economic opportunities.

"Today marks more than the beginning of a training course. It marks the beginning of opportunity, innovation, empowerment and transformation. This programme is a testament to collaboration.

It reflects what can happen when government entities, industry partners and training institutions unite behind a common purpose, which is to create inclusive growth and shared prosperity,” emphasised Magwaza.

She further acknowledged Ntsu Aviation Academy’s expertise in providing innovative unmanned aviation solutions and highlighted the value of collaborative initiatives in strengthening South Africa’s innovation and skills development ecosystem.

This milestone reflects Armscor’s continued intention to advance the national socio-economic development agenda by supporting initiatives that empower small businesses to grow, innovate and contribute meaningfully to the economy. In addition to technical training, beneficiaries will receive an aviation support package upon completion of the programme. The package includes a drone kit and operating licence to assist them in establishing sustainable business operations within the sector.

Magwaza also emphasised the growing relevance of drone technology across various industries and the importance of ensuring that emerging enterprises are not left behind in the digital economy.

“The aviation and drone sectors continue to evolve rapidly across the world. Drones are now used in agriculture, security, infrastructure monitoring, environmental management, disaster response and many other industries. By equipping these beneficiaries with accredited skills, operating licences and drone kits, we are ensuring that they are positioned to participate meaningfully in a growing and competitive sector,” concluded Magwaza.

The companies to benefit from this programme are Adroit, Blu Transfuxion Logistics Solution, Coalition Trading, Drobotics Systems, Grath Tech, MaZwide Scaff and Construction, Mfalme Tembo, Telgocraft, Tlou Aviation Consulting and Nhanha Engineering.

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ENQUIRIES

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