



Sunday, November 30, 2025, to
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

**Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, Kleinmond,
Hermanus, Western Cape, South Africa**

SATNAC 2025 Industry Solutions Challenge: Call for Participation

Join the Southern Africa Telecommunication Networks and Applications Conference (SATNAC) 2025 Industry Solutions Challenge and put your passion for innovation to the test. This is an opportunity for students in South African Institutions of Higher Learning to tackle real-world, industry-inspired challenges.

SATNAC

SATNAC is an annual conference held in South Africa where important stakeholders in telecommunications and technology — like researchers, students, industry experts, and government — come together to share ideas, present research, and discuss the future of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). It's a space where academic thinking meets industry practice, making it an important event for anyone interested in how technology is shaping the future in Africa and beyond.

SATNAC 2025 will take place at the Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, Kleinmond, Hermanus, Western Cape, South Africa, from Sunday, 30 November 2025, to Wednesday, 3 December 2025

To learn more, visit: <https://satnac.org.za/home>

Ready to Take on the Challenge?

SATNAC Industry Solutions Challenge invites postgraduate and undergraduate students based in South Africa who are passionate about innovation to participate in an innovation challenge where they will get the opportunity to tackle industry-inspired challenges and propose innovative solutions. Throughout the competition, participating individuals or teams are given the opportunity to apply research, analytics, and technical skills to develop practical solutions under the mentorship of industry experts from sponsoring partners.

By participating in the challenge, you stand a chance to win an exclusive, fully sponsored opportunity to attend SATNAC, South Africa's premier ICT research & innovation forum, in addition to sponsor prizes. This opportunity will allow the winner to showcase their solution, network with top industry leaders, and gain career-boosting exposure to cutting-edge technology trends.

In the challenge, participants will be guided through the full innovation journey, from generating ideas, shaping them into clear concepts, developing practical prototypes, and finally learning how to pitch their solutions effectively, through a series of dedicated masterclasses and mentorship sessions from industry experts. Participants are expected to participate in challenge activities from Ideation to Pitching, to qualify for the SATNAC Industry Solutions finale event. A YouTube link to last year's finale event can be accessed [here](#).

These are some of the benefits that come with winning the challenge:

- Visits to innovation hubs
- Gain visibility with potential employers, opening doors to internships and work opportunities.
- Network with business and technical teams from our sponsoring partners.
- Get exposure to and interact with business executives & captains of industry within the ICT sector
- High-value prizes from leading technology and telecommunications companies.
- Develop essential skills in design thinking, problem-solving, data analytics, and presentation.
- Receive expert guidance from industry and academic leaders.

Don't miss out on this chance to develop & showcase your skills and shape the future of technology.

NB: Only applicants registered with a South African Institution of Higher Learning and/or residing within South Africa are eligible to take part in the challenge.

Apply to take part in the challenge by filling in this form: <https://forms.gle/msTrq2PcnTSxC3Yd7>

Important Dates

Closing deadline for applications: Sunday, 21 September 2025 (23h59)

Prizes & Recognition

- Participation Acknowledgement: Every participant who presents a solution will receive a certificate signed by the SATNAC Chairperson.
- **Winners' Prizes:**
 - Customised skills development or packages from topic sponsors.
 - High-value sponsored prizes.
 - Live SABC Broadcast of the Awards Ceremony at SATNAC.
 - The winning group will have to nominate one member to receive the SATNAC 2025 Innovator Award

SATNAC 2024 Industry Solutions Challenge

2024 Winners

IIE Varsity College winners in the category Topic: Proactive and Hyper-Personalised Customer Support (Sponsored by Amdocs)
Photos sourced from LinkedIn

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/live/EFFHrOGZhbK?si=UB6UEkPK8tfWMLr->



Keightly Mabasa



Blessing Adefila



Rebotile Molala

*University of Eswatini winners in the category Topic: Real-Time Fraud Detection in Telecom Sales
(Sponsored by Amdocs)*

Photos sourced from LinkedIn and Facebook

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/live/EFFHrOGZhbk?si=PqzidX2WWXqb5o1K>



Bandile Malaza



Tshidiso Hlophe



Wandile Hlatshwako

*North West University winners In the category Topic: AI Recommendation Models for Energy Efficiency In
Equipment Buildings (Sponsored by Openserve)*

Photos Sourced from LinkedIn

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/live/SUIOTaeFPIY?si=jvXJaGsndSGBGX8b>



Frederik Steyn



Karabo Makau

*University of the Witwatersrand winner under the Topic: Balancing AI Adoption with Data Privacy in Industry
(Sponsored by Huawei)*

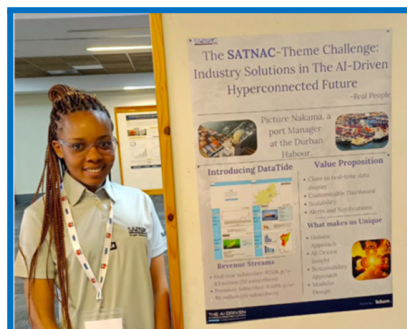
Photo sourced from LinkedIn

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/live/tBMGwsZbUYY?si=oHWDtuhYVwMmzuA->



Andile Mngomezulu

*University of the Witwatersrand winner under the Topic: Disrupting Industries with AI-Driven Hyperconnectivity (Sponsored by the Wits Innovation Centre, facilitated by the Telkom Research & Development Lab at Wits)
Photo Sourced from Facebook*



Swelihle Sibiya

Overall winners (2024):

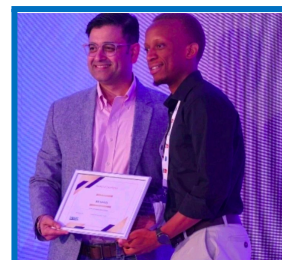
The overall winner, a team from Eswatini University, walked away with the SATNAC *Innovator Award* for their CANOT (Centralised Automated Network Operations Tool). In addition to the devices that they won, they also received a R10 000 cash prize.



Phephile Sigudla

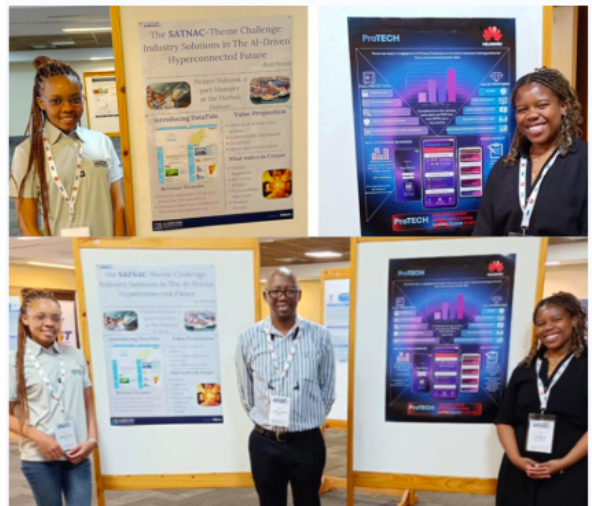
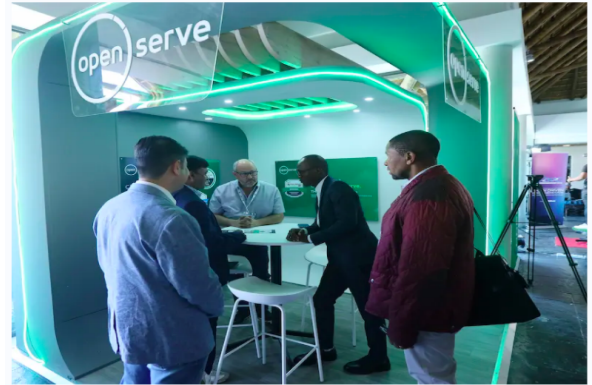


Samkelo Msibi



Thembinkosi Mkhonta

SATNAC 2024 Photo Gallery



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To learn more, visit: <https://satnac.org.za/>