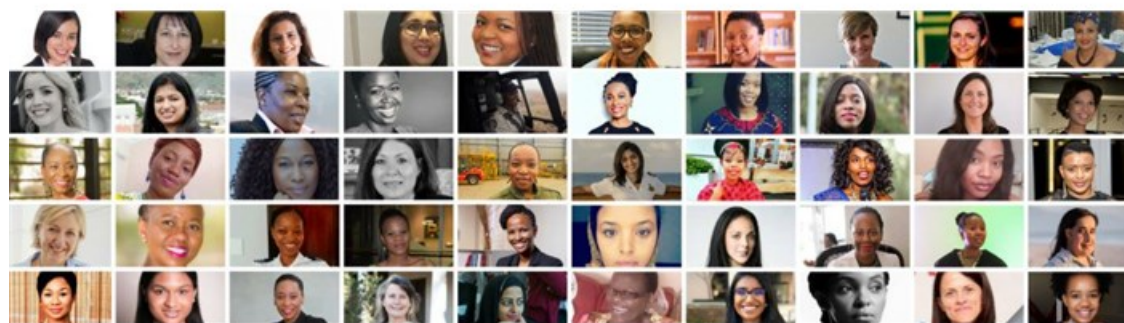


#InspiringFiftySA 2018 winners announced

After months of collecting the stories of South African women at the forefront of some of the biggest impacts in the science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) sector, the #InspiringFiftySA winners have been announced.



Bonnie Horbach, consul general for the Netherlands, exclaimed, “The judges had a hard time selecting the final fifty based on the high calibre of the nominees. These groundbreaking women will not only be recognised in South Africa but will form part of a global network of women. Imagine the possibilities when connecting women through this platform to: be recognised in their respective fields, share their stories and make a difference by inspiring tomorrow’s female leaders.”

This year marks the second edition of the global initiative, in collaboration with #cocreateSA, which welcomed 276 nominees at the closing of the nomination period on 9 July 2018.

In order to have met the criteria, the nominee had to be a founder of a technology company; or hold a position in a C-Level position in a technology company; or be an influencer, academic or politician in the technology or innovation space.

The winners are...

NAME	TITLE
Alysia Silberg	founder at Global FiresideChat and general partner at Street Global Venture Capital
Anita Nel	senior director at Innovation of Stellenbosch University and CEO of Innovus
Annu Augustine	founder at NedRock and product management consultant
Anri van der Spuy	manager at Africa Digital Policy Project
Anujah Bosman	CEO at Chillisoft Solution Services (Pty) Ltd
Benedicta Mahlangu-Durcan	executive at Ease of Doing Business and co-founder and CEO of Afrobodies Pty Ltd
Dr. Denisha Jairam-Owthar	ICT manager at Projects, Governance & Assets
Dr. Fanelwa Ngece Ajayi	founder at AmaQawe Ngemfundo
Dr. Imogen Wright	chief scientific officer at Hyrax Biosciences
Dr. Rethabile Mashale Sonibare	director and founder at Mbolo Mhlaba School for Girls & Thope Foundation
Genevieve Mannel	head of BI and EKMat TFG (The Foschini Group)
Heloise Greeff	co-inventor and machine learning engineer at Oxford Smart Handpump
Kholeka Tsotsotso	CIO at Development Bank of South Africa
Kiara Nirghin	student at Stanford University
Laura Ilunga	helicopter and airplane pilot at Starlite Aviation Operations and Crew Resources International

Leah Molatseli	founder and MD at Lenoma Legal
Lebo Mkgabudi	managing director at EagleQuest Africa
Lehlogonolo Mseri	founding director at Mosa Environmental Consulting and Educate-A-Girl Foundation
Lerato Mtsamai	founder and CEO at Petrolink and Grlignite Africa Academy
Lesley Donna Williams	CEO at Tshimologong Precinct
Lianne du Toit	business director at YPO, CareDirect, Future Females
Lorraine steyn	director at Khanyisa real systems
Lungile Maile	founder and managing director at Nubian Smarts
Mamokgethi Phakeng	vice chancellor at University of Cape Town
Marilyn Radebe	CEO at Soma Solutions
Maureen Ann Grosvenor	director and head of custom applications at Appsolve
Mmabatho Mokiti	founder and CEO at Mathemaniacs
Nadia Karrim	ENT/Head and Neck Surgical Registrar; South African National Point of Contact at Department of Health; Space Generation Advisory Council
Nandi Zama	commander pilot at South African Air Force
Noletu Moti	chief inspector: Nuclear Power Plant at National Nuclear Regulator
Nomsa Nteleko	managing director at OS Holdings (Pty) Ltd
Palesa Sibeko	commercialisation young professional and MSc Astrophysics student at South African Radio Astronomy Observatory/University of the Western Cape
Pam Mkhize	head of sub-Saharan Africa Digital Satellite at Enel
Phuti Ragophala	Microsoft Innovative educator trainer at Phuti Training and motivational speaking
Professor Keolebogile Shirley Motaung	assistant dean: Research and Entrepreneur at Tshwane University of Technology/Global Health Biotech (PTY) LTD
Professor Glenda Gray	president and CEO at South African Medical Research Council
Refilwe Ledwaba	founder and executive director at Women and Aviation/Girls fly programme in Africa
Ridhwana Khan	co-founder of Zero One Bespoke Software Development at Zero One Bespoke Software Development, Kasi Maths, Women in Tech JHB, Ladies that UX JHB
Rivonia Pillay	water Engineer at department of Water and Sanitation
Samantha N. Ngcolomba	founder and manager at Lady Liberty SA
Sandiso Sibisi	Open Innovation Africa Africa manager at Accenture
Shana Derman	CEO and co-founder at IntelliCred
Sonya Kuhnel	managing director at Blockchain Academy
Sorene Assefa	founder and managing director at Cyber Czar (Pty) Ltd
Veronica Motloutsi	chief executive and founder at SmartDigital Solution
Yolisa Skwintshi	head of technology at Absa Bank
Zandile Keebine	chairperson at GirlCode
Zarina Ebrahim	managing director and founder at Nebula Designs
Zimkhita Buwa	chief operating officer at Britehouse
Zinhle Mpungose	managing director at Digi Change Guru

“As we honour the winners of Inspiring Fifty for 2018, I think it would be opportune also to honour the woman who upon learning of this campaign, not only brought it to us but also championed it in South Africa! Bonnie Horbach leaves a country filled with gratitude, she leaves a sisterhood of women who are not only affirmed but are able to affirm one another, secure in their excellence and secure that recognising others does not dim their own light! said Carol Bouwer, Inspiring Fifty 2018 judge, businesswoman and UNICEF SA Advocate for Women and Children.

“I hope in 50 years to come we celebrate this campaign as a relic of the past because women will have attained the kind of equality and respect that makes recognition organic! We will miss you Bonnie but thank you for your light- here’s to our Fifty Inspiring women and the generations of women who draw inspiration from them,” said Bouwer.

“These fifty women will go on to inspire and encourage both young girls and boys in this country and showcase the opportunities that they may not have realised were available to them. It is an exciting time for women in STEM in South Africa,” concluded Horbach.

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