

SECTION ONE: BACKGROUND AND BRIEF

THE BRIEF

The primary objective of this study is to prepare a strategic plan for the development of a competitive tooling industry in South Africa. Sub objectives are:

- 1 Develop a total picture of the South African Tooling Industry
- 2 Address the specific strategic issues outlined in the ToR, for example, making investment in the South African Tooling industry attractive and the review of the relevant commercial issues.
- 3 Develop a strategy for the development of a competitive Tooling industry in South Africa (what to do)
- 4 Structure an implementable and pragmatic plan of action (how to do)

It is expected that the results of the study will inform future policy approaches to ensure the development and growth of the tooling industry, the creation of quality employment and development of highly skilled manufacturing workers. In addition, the research study will formulate short, medium and long-term strategy recommendations, which will contribute to the creation of quality jobs, skills development and Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) within the tooling industry. Certain specific issues were to be addressed inter alia during the course of this investigation as follows:

Economic Assessment

- Identify national economic contribution of tooling, die manufacturing and design and how these support implementation of industrial and sector strategies;
- Track down the levels and nature of employment over time to give an indication of how this industry has contributed to employment or loss of employment;
- Provide a sectoral overview of the tooling industry in South Africa to indicate areas for potential growth or decline;
- Analyse local, regional and international markets necessary to justify investing resources in developing the tooling industry in South Africa. Indicate priority sectors for special attention;
- Consider ways in which to promote the participation of previously disadvantaged individuals and enterprises;

Technology/Technical Assessment

- Identify South African Tooling industry's capability and capacity to manufacture components to appropriate and/or world-class standards in Metrology and Inspection;
- Identify ways to train tool designers and skilled toolmakers, metrology and inspection that will consistently supply the Tooling Industry with skilled toolmakers and avoid losing skilled toolmakers to foreign economies.

Commercial Assessment

- Identify success factors for different sizes and types of the tooling in SA.
- Identify where the South African Tooling Industry could be competitive against the emerging global countries.
- Identify the specific interventions and levers necessary to make tooling an attractive and sustainable business venture in South Africa. Responsibilities should be identified and budget estimates for five years should be given;

Final Deliverable

Develop an overall strategic plan for a commercially viable and competitive Tooling Industry in South Africa. Estimated achievable growth forecasts in investment, sales and employment should be given. As part of the study and strategy development process, and to ensure full contextual appreciation, the ToR requires that the project team will:

- Develop linkages with prior relevant local and international research work;
- Identify and explain inconsistencies and contradictions, if any, in the literature;
- Provide options for the best approach for the development of the South African Tooling Industry.