

NUST to launch Lüderitz Campus – “*Lens of the Future*”

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) is set to open another campus in the country, as part of its strategic move to take higher education to all corners of Namibia. The University had inaugurated its northern campus in Eenhana, Ohangwena Region in 2022. The southern campus will ***officially be launched in Lüderitz, //Kharas Region on 25 September 2024.*** Precursors to the event include a ***Public Lecture centred on Oil and Gas, and a Fundraising Gala Dinner, scheduled for 24 September 2024.***

The Public Lecture, sponsored by ReconAfrica, aims to stimulate engaging conversations in the blue and green economies whilst the Gala Dinner is aimed at raising funds for the campus. **Corporates are called upon to take part in these activities by buying seats at the Dinner and making pledges to contribute towards uplifting communities in the coastal town.**

Why Lüderitz?

As Namibia sets itself as a hub to produce green hydrogen, Lüderitz offers ideal conditions for this bold move, and our southern campus is the right place at the right time. The focus of the campus will be green hydrogen/renewable energy production and associated derivatives services, products and technologies. The National Namibia Energy Institute (NEI) housed at NUST is pivotal to promoting green hydrogen and sustainable energy systems at the Lüderitz campus.

The Campus is envisaged to become Namibia's first Science and Technology Park (STP), promoting technological development through research, innovation and entrepreneurship while attracting technology-based companies, especially MSMEs. The park will also work closely with the Material Testing Institute (MTI) and Namibian German Centre for Logistics (NGCL) at NUST. Similarly, the integration of Materials Testing Institute and Namibia German Institute of Logistics with the Science Park creates a comprehensive ecosystem where sustainable energy research, material testing, and logistics management are interconnected.

This holistic approach ensures that the research undertaken at the Lüderitz campus, is not only innovative but also practically viable and scalable. International potential partners for the campus have been identified, such as the Hydrogen Lab at the RheinMain University of Applied Sciences, Leibniz Institute for New Materials, and Material Testing Institute at Hochschule of Applied Science, in Germany.

Tailor-Made Programmes

Currently, Introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (InSTEM), and Faculty of Commerce, Human Sciences and Education (Non-STEM) bridging programmes are on offer at the Lüderitz Campus. The student numbers are expected to grow in tandem with the number of programmes to be offered at the campus, specifically those tailored for the future, such as Petroleum Engineering and other technical (TVET) programmes focusing on wind, battery and solar energy technologies. Applied research and innovation will ensure stable green energy and demineralisation of water for low-cost green hydrogen production.

In the 2025 Academic Year, approximately 18 programmes are scheduled to be rolled out, including a *Master of Business Administration: Master of Sustainable Energy Systems, and Master of Science in Integrated Water Resources Management*.

Lens of the Future

The "Lens of the Future" theme for the launch of the Lüderitz campus symbolises NUST's forward-thinking approach and its commitment to shaping a sustainable and innovative future. With this theme, NUST highlights the campus's role in driving Namibia's green energy ambitions, particularly in areas like green hydrogen, sustainable energy systems, and high-tech industrial development.

NUST is dedicated to leveraging the region's raw economic potential, creating a nexus where academia, industry and government converge to accelerate Namibia's transition into a knowledge-based, sustainable economy. In addition to the Lüderitz Science and Technology Park, more parks are planned Oranjemund, Rosh Pinah, Neckartal Dam and Stampriet. The motto of the campus is "*NUST Lüderitz Technovation Park: Powering Innovation and Fuelling the Future*", which befittingly sets the tone for the University's strategic direction in this key area.