



The AIDC Eastern Cape (AIDC-EC) a wholly owned company by ECDC, is the Province's institutional mechanism that is mandated to promote and facilitate the automotive industry growth and development by supporting the government's industrial policy and other strategic initiatives that will contribute towards the provincial economic growth. As a developmental institution, AIDC-EC has positioned itself to contribute to the growth of the South African automotive industry; support the government's automotive related objectives; contribute to the government and industry's goals of continuous growth and sustainable job creation; and support ECDC's macro development plan and consequently contribute to the provincial growth and development plans.

The **Smart Industrial Academy** is a flagship initiative of the Eastern Cape's industrialisation and competitiveness agenda, aligned with **SAAM2035**, the **Eastern Cape Automotive Masterplan**, the **SADC Industrialisation Strategy**, and **UNIDO's Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)** framework. Positioned as a leading Industry 4.0 / 5.0 Centre of Excellence, the Academy drives advanced manufacturing capability development, digital industrial transformation, and global technology collaboration in partnership with OEMs, technology leaders, universities, and multilateral institutions.

#### **ADVISOR: SMART INDUSTRIAL ACADEMY (3-YEAR FIXED-TERM CONTRACT)**

The AIDC-EC aims to recruit an **Advisor: Smart Industrial Academy** on a **3-year fixed-term contract basis**.

The **Advisor: Smart Industrial Academy** will report to the **Executive Manager: Component Suppliers and Investor Support**.

#### **Purpose of Position:**

The Advisor: Smart Industrial Academy role is a high-impact strategic advisory role designed for a recognised expert in smart manufacturing, industrial digitalisation, and the industrial innovation ecosystem. The Advisor will provide independent, high-level strategic and technical support to executive leadership, supporting long-term positioning, programme direction, and global relevance of the Academy. The role is focused on insight, influence, and thought leadership, with strategic oversight and responsibility.

The Smart Industrial Academy serves as a strategic centre of excellence advancing the Eastern Cape's industrialisation and competitiveness agenda by driving Artificial Intelligence and Industry 4.0 / 5.0 capability development, digital transformation, and innovation in advanced manufacturing. Aligned with regional and global frameworks, it fosters skills development, technology adoption, and collaborative partnerships with OEMs, academia, and international institutions to enhance industrial performance, global competitiveness, and sustainable economic growth.

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

- Provide strategic advice on **Industry 4.0 / 5.0 trends**, advanced manufacturing technologies, and global best practices.
- Support alignment of Academy initiatives with **National, Regional, and international industrial policy frameworks**.



- Advise on the design and evolution of flagship programmes in:
  - Smart manufacturing and digital factories
  - AI and data-driven manufacturing
  - VR/AR-enabled technical training
  - Automotive and mobility technology demonstration
- Support the development and structuring of strategic international and industry partnerships
- Provide guidance on technology pilots, commercialisation pathways, and industry uptake
- Contribute to thought leadership and global positioning through selected high-level engagements

## **JOB REQUIREMENTS**

### **Education requirements**

- Master's degree in engineering, Industrial Technology, Digital Systems, or Industrial Management.
- Postgraduate qualification in business, innovation, or policy is advantageous.

### **Experience:**

- Minimum **15 years' experience** in advanced manufacturing, industrial digitalisation, industrial innovation, or industrial policy environments.
- Recognised expertise in **Industry 4.0 / 5.0, smart manufacturing, AI/loT**, or related fields.
- Demonstrated experience advising Executives, Boards, or Public-sector Leadership.
- Proven international exposure and experience working with global partners and institutions.

### **Competencies / Skills / Knowledge**

- Strategic judgement and foresight
- Executive-level advisory presence
- Systems thinking across policy, technology, and skills development
- Stakeholder diplomacy and strong professional credibility
- High ethical standards and governance awareness

**Contact:** If you are interested in this position and have the relevant experience and expertise please forward your CV with full personal details, education, work history, and contactable references to [recruitment@aidcec.co.za](mailto:recruitment@aidcec.co.za)

***Please note that correspondence and communication will only be conducted with short-listed candidates.***

**If you have not been contacted within eight weeks after the date of the advertisement, please regard your application as unsuccessful.**

**Closing Date: 18 May 2026**