

# SA's Newest Venture Capital Fund

THERE'S A new venture capital fund in town. Hasso Plattner Ventures Africa plans to give innovators in South Africa a leg up into the global technology arena.

The R350-million fund was launched in Cape Town in February by Professor Hasso Plattner, the co-founder, chairman and chief software advisor for SAP. Co-funded by German MAN Ferrostaal, the fund is an important boost to South Africa's entrepreneurial climate.

Hasso Plattner Ventures Africa aims to invest in and manage a portfolio of investments that have a unique innovative offering either based on the business model, product offering or underlying technology. Technology investments will not be limited to but in majority have an emphasis on telecommunications, mobile applications, media and software as well as clean technology investments such as renewable energy, energy-saving concepts and similar business segments in early stages of their development with the focus of their activities predominantly in South Africa and other emerging markets.

The fund in South Africa will be headed by Andrea Böhmert, who says Hasso Plattner Ventures Africa aims to identify companies that have the potential to successfully succeed on an international level and will provide access to an international network of leading companies, venture capital firms and institutions in the technology arena.

"In the past, South African technology companies have found it almost impossible to get funding from international groups outside of South Africa. And all start up businesses know, its extremely important not only to get investment funding but also assistance in accessing global markets.

Böhmert says the support will be two-fold - the portfolio companies will get local management support through HP Ventures Africa which will have its office based at TechnoPark in Stellenbosch and a constant exchange of information

with its European partner Hasso Plattner Ventures Europe which could also follow up funding across Europe through the German fund. In addition, the funds have close relationships with the International Venture Capital industry and will provide support in each continent for accelerating international exposure and growth for its portfolio companies.

She says Hasso Plattner Ventures Africa (HP-Ventures Africa) has strict investment requirements and will favour the best managed early stage South African companies that embrace, create and utilize leading global technology trends. "It is our goal to build world-class international companies which have the potential to be able to actively compete on the international market. ✕

➤ [www.hp-ventures.co.za](http://www.hp-ventures.co.za)

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

“Support and Mentorship Key

“Support and mentorship is critical for businesses to grow. We need to focus our investment to emerging entrepreneurs in order to develop a skilled society. Our priority includes ensuring training and skills acquisition to SMEs to ensure their effectiveness

— Adrian Hollier,  
Storage Product Manager, Comtek