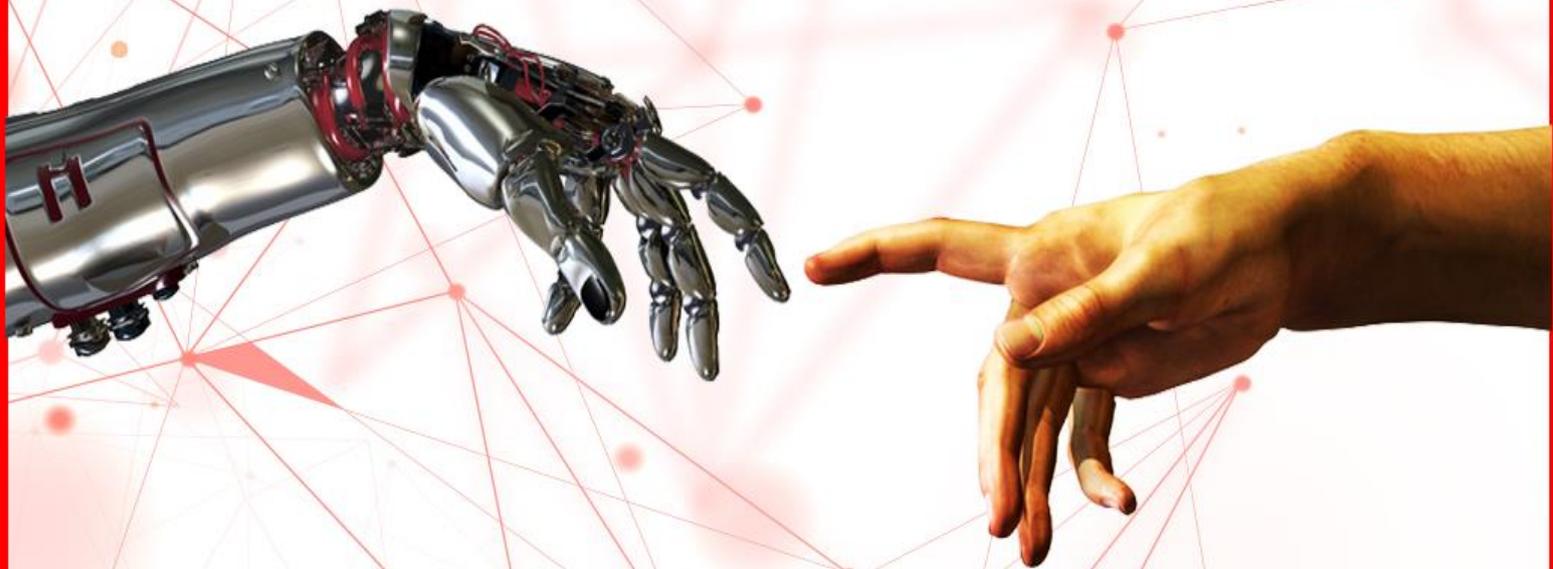




AB4IR NEWS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



ANIMATION - GAMING - TECHNOLOGY



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| Everything AB4IR

CEO's Message

Welcome to 2021!!!!

I welcome you into the New Year and would like to wish you a more prosperous, innovative, and magical 2021. I hope that amidst the current Covid-19 situations, you came back rejuvenated, safe, and ready to take on the New Year with all its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Our deepest condolences to all families who have lost loved ones in the battle with #COVID19, our thoughts and sympathies are with you, this too shall pass.

It is of no doubt that 2020 was challenging and we are still experiencing the worst due to the second wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic but we remain hopeful that 2021 will be a better year for all of us. It is always good to look ahead and think about what this year may bring us as we are planning to uplift the start-ups in our communities and around the country. As they say, "With every challenge, there is an opportunity", it all depends on how you look at it.

Though we were not able to launch our digital facility in 2020, we are pleased with our progress to date. We managed to recruit 19 and hosted various key events in line with our mandate, with our highlight being the inaugural Worldwide Women in Innovation, Incubation and Technology Summit (W-WIITS). Furthermore, we launched our Umbokoda programme which is our nationwide programme aimed at encouraging female participation in the ICT sector with a specific focus on creation of local female coding clubs and international network of female coders, and, hosting coding bootcamps and hackathons.



In the process we also managed to engage with partners in our innovation ecosystem for possible partnership and looked at areas where we can collaborate to contribute to the digital innovation ecosystem, empower our communities in Tshwane areas and in Gauteng to improve competitiveness of our province.

During the COVID-19 crisis, start-ups have continued to play a critical role for economies. Some innovative young firms have reacted fast and adapted to the new way of doing business, becoming agile and showing flexibility to the pandemic. The changes have been critical in helping many countries shift towards fully digital work, education, entertainment, bettering health care services, and have provided innovations in medical goods and services.

McKinsey and Company has listed the 4th Industrial Revolution acceleration as one of the top trends for 2021. You are part of that trend; our objective is to move beyond trend status and sustain its impact and importance to our economy. In doing so, ensuring greater awareness, participation, and inclusion in this reality with infinite opportunities. Last but not least I would like to formally introduce you to our Board of Directors:



Ramateu Monyokolo
Chairperson



Kelebogile Molopyane
CEO



Sipho Mothobi



Dipuo Marogoa



Prof Tankiso Moloi



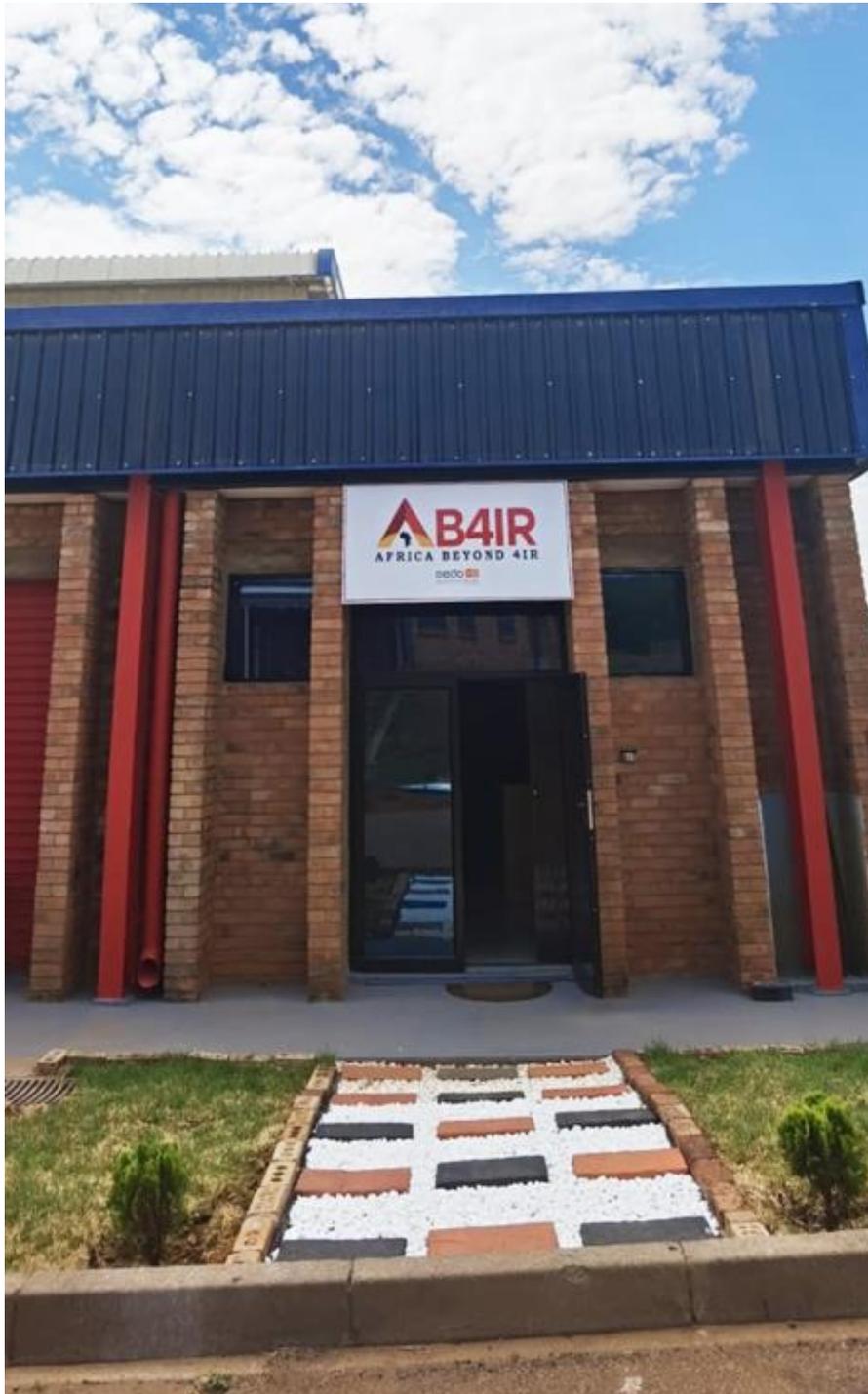
Nontombi Marule



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We always want to hear from you, connect with us on social media via LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and updates on gaming, animation, and virtual reality. For more information and assistance on how you can be part our community, contact us through our social media or our website <https://ab4ir.org/>.

I wish you all the best for 2021, may all your efforts in 2021 yield an impactful and rewarding outcome.



| Technology

The impact of Technology on Funerals

Covid-19 has put our world at a standstill, and this includes the way in which funerals are being conducted. The law of social distancing has brought about the intervention of technology in a form of live streaming.

Most videographer and photographic companies have jumped into the wagon of which is now called the new normal. The bereaved families are utilising live streaming service to bury their loved ones to be inclusive of those that are disadvantaged by restricted numbers that may attend a funeral.

Social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube are being used to create a public live stream for public viewing while others have extended the streaming to other platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The advancement in technology is clearly playing a vital role in social distancing and curbing the spread of covid-19. This also proves that whether we know it or not, we are all a part of the fourth industrial revolution in one way or another.



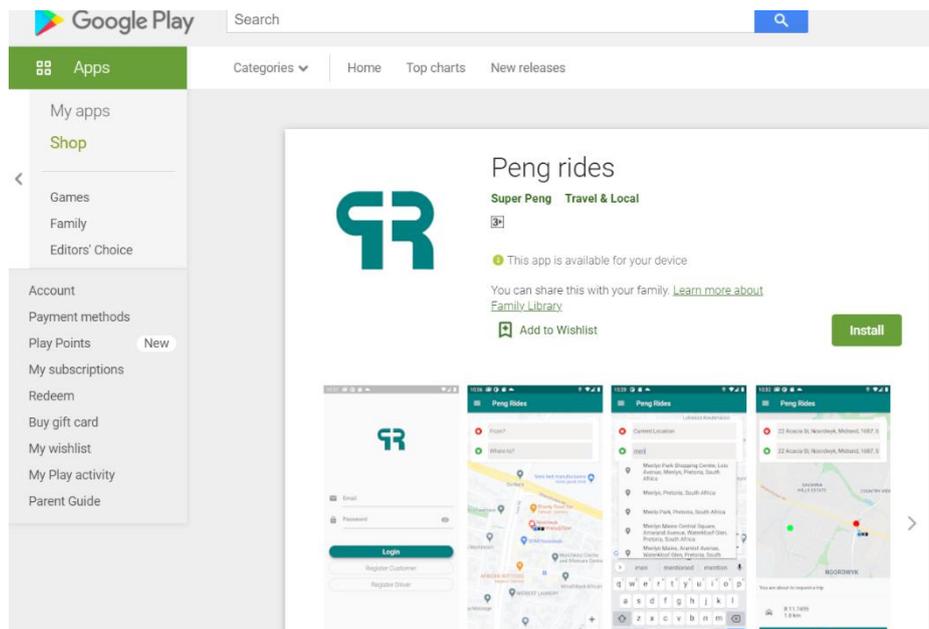
Township transport App

It is heart-warming to see the South African youth taking on the challenge of competing in the technology market. There has been a transport app developed in the township of Soshanguve called Peng Rides.

This is an app developed by Lethabo 'Peng' Nkgapele, from Soshanguve who sought to compete in the market with Uber, Bolt and Indrive just to mention a few and the app is already available on Google Play store and it's still pending Apple approval.

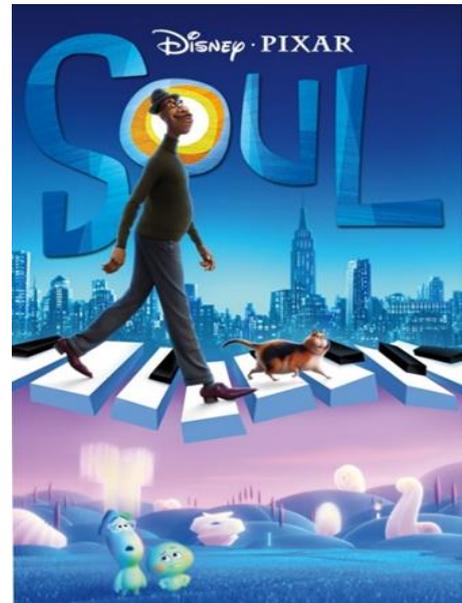
The creation of the app is a revolutionary move in the right direction for local developers, the app can be downloaded from the link below.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=co.za.peng.peng_rides&gl=ZA&fbclid=IwAR2dq26FH4Gws03YoGVKbNh2BFasEztAY-6Mw4Ghnez5igbJ800vAGqV3Bw



| Animation

Soul



Ever wondered what it would be like to follow your dream/passion, with some well-known actors like Jamie Foxx (The voice of Joe Gardner) and Tina Fey (The voice of 22), Pixar's new animated film 'Soul' takes you on a journey in which a man is so consumed by his life's purpose that he refuses to die until he accomplishes his goal.

Directed by Pete Docter, the filmmakers give you their vision of what makes life worth living through Joe's eyes and the Spark that 22 needs to find to be ready to start their life. The message Soul sends is about the meaning of life and finding purpose and inspiring others along the way, amidst everything life throws at you and everyone who wants to add their '2 cents' to the way you should live your life.

Some people even took to twitter to give their views on how Soul was and spoke of what stood out for them. For those who choose to watch movies based on the ratings from the likes of Rotten Tomatoes and IMDB, you are sure in for a surprise when you see how Soul was rated.



(Twitter Review)

Critics Consensus
A film as beautiful to contemplate as it is to behold, *Soul* proves Pixar's power to deliver outstanding all-ages entertainment remains undimmed.

 **96%**  **88%**

TOMATOMETER **AUDIENCE SCORE**
Total Count: 307 User Ratings: 5,171

(Rotten tomatoes)

Soul (2020) ★ 8.1 /10 154,054  Rate This

PG | 1h 40min | Animation, Adventure, Comedy | 25 December 2020 (USA)



(IMDB Rating)

If you have a VPN and a Disney+ subscription, this is a definite must watch.

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/soul_2020

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2948372/>

| Gaming

The Endless Wyrd



Produced in South Africa, 'The Endless Wyrd' recently won the first qualification round of the Nordic Game Discovery Contest (NGDC) Season V. The NGDC took place during Africa Games Week in Cape Town in early December and Design Imps have qualified for one of the biggest international contests. The NGDC will be taking place in Sweden again later this year.

In 'The Endless Wyrd', the aim is to scavenge the Wyrd and escape the approaching Thing of the Dark. The game has quite a few fantastic features including:

- The quest for that to show off your OP (overpowered) combos.
- Unit synergies.
- Player-Unit synergies. Players can interact with certain units to get effects that will positively affect combat.
- Item synergies. You can build up your deck with powerful items that synergise well together.

There are also complex boss mechanics, impressive movement mechanics and customizations to your character build. There are many more, but it is better to experience these in game.

Janke van Jaarsveld the CEO of Design Imps said the following about the game,

"To us, The Endless Wyrd is the quest for the stupidly overpowered and we can't wait for players to uncover the ridiculously overpowered synergies and combinations that we have in store. We are also immensely proud of the game's South African roots, boasting the unique comic art style of Willem Samuel, who's band, SKREEAlleen, incidentally also lent their talents to the soundtrack."

“The Endless Wyrd” is scheduled for Early Access release in Q3 of 2021. An early Alpha demo is currently available on Steam.

https://store.steampowered.com/app/1227330/The_Endless_Wyrd/

Read more at the link below.

<https://www.thegamer.com/south-african-produced-the-endless-wyrd-releases-demo-and-early-access-launch-date/>



| Around Africa

How Africa's AfCFTA agreement will impact start-ups and policymakers



From January 1, 2021, Africa is ushering in a new economic era with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. The agreement was to be implemented in July 2020 but was suspended because of the global pandemic. Several pundits and major organisations have lauded the initiative, but it presents tough questions for policymakers and huge opportunities for start-ups and innovators in Africa.

What is the AfCFTA agreement?

The AfCFTA Agreement is a pact that involves the 55 member states of the African Union looking to create a single continent-wide market for goods and services and facilitate capital movement.

To read more about this, visit the links below.

<https://techpoint.africa/2021/01/01/afcfta-startups-policymakers/>

<https://linuxinsider.com/story/africa-becoming-vast-frontier-for-free-and-open-software-38025.html>

| News Around the World

High Time for Cyberlaw Enforcement and a Future of Work Strategy



Huawei has events where it pulls together key analysts to focus on problems it thinks are critical to the future. At its last event, Huawei spoke about two areas that need considerable work, namely.

- Global Cyberlaw Enforcement
- The need an international cybersecurity commission.

Huawei CSO Andy Purdy also spoke about the lack of a comprehensive strategy for the future of work post-COVID-19 coming from any country. The EU did develop one, but it severely lacked and needed more detail to be used as a guideline for firms like Huawei to build for the future.

To read more about this, visit the link below.

<https://www.technewsworld.com/story/High-Time-for-Cyberlaw-Enforcement-and-a-Future-of-Work-Strategy-86992.html>

Microsoft, GM, Cruise Partner on Self-Driving Cars



A strategic partnership with Microsoft was announced by General Motors and Cruise, aimed at speeding up the commercialization of shared self-driving vehicles.

In addition, Microsoft will be joining GM, Honda, and some institutional investors in adding US\$2 billion to Cruise's coffers, bringing the value of the shared self-driving vehicle company to \$30 billion.

"The companies in this sector are going to need a long runway before they generate enough revenues to be self-sustaining so another \$2 billion in the bank for Cruise is the single most important aspect of this," Sam Abuelsamid, principal analyst for e-mobility at Guidehouse Insights, a market intelligence company in Detroit.

To read more about this, visit the link below.

<https://www.technewsworld.com/story/Microsoft-GM-Cruise-Partner-on-Self-Driving-Cars-86988.html>

Upcoming Events

- Ilizwe Lam Workshop - 2 February
- E-sports Team Scouting

Our Partners

