

## AB4IR AND LIQUID INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGIES HACKATHON WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**Hackathon challenge gathered the greatest minds for the AB4IR/Liquid Intelligent Technologies Hackathon to build innovative solutions in aid of the struggling creative industries sector.**

Tshwane, 26 April 2021 – AB4IR in collaboration with Liquid Intelligent Technologies Labs (previously known as Liquid Telecom) announced the winners of the first of its kind “hackathon” that took place at their premises based as the Tshwane South TVET College, ODI Campus in Mabopane from 16 to 18 April 2021. The event attracted a pool of more than 250 registrants from which 20 participants were chosen and separated into five groups to participate in the challenge. Participants were instructed to create a tech-driven innovative solution to solve challenges for the creative industry which has been hard hit by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The objective of the event was to encourage the youth to participate on the solution driven technologies to solve current challenges and enhance digital entrepreneurship in the townships. Furthermore, the hackathon aimed to promote entrepreneurship, encourage critical thinking, and challenge the participants ability to conceptualise sustainable solutions under pressure.

A panel of judges evaluated submissions based on their level of innovation, presentations, real-world impact, functionality of the platform and execution. All award winners received cash prizes.

### The Winners for the Hackathon innovative solutions are:

Categories	Prize amounts	App name	Participants
First Place	R15 000	Captured:	Nompumelelo Mncwango katlego Matshwi Rich Sibusiso Hlatshwayo Jessica Mashile
Second Place	R10 000	Ubunifu	Gontse Kgosana Linton Ndlovu Kenneth chuenyana Alfred Nthaudi

Third Place	R5 000	My Universe	Thobani Mathenjwa Phaswa Tiyasi Nozipho Mashapa
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One of the members of the winning team from Captured said, “This event was an exceptional learning platform for me. It allowed me to interact and collaborate with brilliant like-minded innovators to develop solutions that could have a positive impact in growing the creative sector and contribute to the economy. I believe that anyone who wants to find viable solutions for the creative industry, or any industry problems should participate in the AB4IR Hackathon.”

“We were impressed by the energy and depth of knowledge of the participants. They showed dedication and we are proud of the outcome and potential showed by all participants. It was amazing to interact with and unleash raw talents hidden as they sort to craft new solutions to grow the creative industry and foster creativity in township communities – said **Mr Ben Roberts, Group Technology, and Innovation Officer at Liquid Intelligent Technologies.**

“We are proud to be one of the few Digital hubs in Gauteng to host a hackathon for digital innovation, particularly looking at advancing the creative industry. Initiatives such as these foster engagement and collaboration between students, professionals, and institutions, to develop innovative and cost-effective solutions for real-world and enhance more collaborations in the creative industry. The Hackathon initiative focused not only on the current challenges in the creative industry, but it also focused on developing solutions for the future.” - **said Ms Kelebogile Molopyane, CEO, AB4IR.**

To stay posted on more hackathons for the future, please visit [www.Ab4ir.org](http://www.Ab4ir.org).

Ends

**For media enquiries and interviews, kindly contact**

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## About AB4IR

A not-for-profit company (NPC) founded on the market need to redress the digital divide apparent in previously disadvantaged communities of South Africa. Their programs expose disadvantaged communities to the gaming, animation, virtual reality, and drone technology business opportunities. Communities are empowered through technology, innovation, and incubation. The programme introduces start-up entrepreneurs to new trends in technology and advise them on how to incubate their ideas for market access and commercialise their innovations.

## About Liquid Intelligent Technologies

Previously known as Liquid Telecom. They are South Africa's first converged telecommunications network operator. Since 2006 they we have been tirelessly working to deploy a nation-wide backbone fibre network that connects to over 40 cities and towns across South Africa. Today, they connect over 5,000 businesses and their network passes close to another 100,000 addresses. Not only do they connect their customers to Africa over a single fibre connection, but their fibre optic backbone network ensures the highest levels of performance.

