Unisa's 10 Catalytic Niche Areas

3. Automotive



INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, **3. Automotive**, 4. Energy, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, 7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies), 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 4th 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Automotive Studies. The theme for series 4 is "Future-Focused, Adaptive and Sustainable Catalytic Niche Areas". In this series, we explore emerging trends, risks and opportunities, and we consider the sustainability and adaptability of our niche area engagements.

Automotive Futures in Transition: Anticipating Disruption, Rethinking Mobility and Building Resilience
As technological innovation, environmental pressures and shifting global industrial dynamics reshape the automotive sector, how can UNISA's Automotive Studies Catalytic Niche Area anticipate emerging risks and opportunities, adapt its research priorities and strengthen its long-term relevance within South Africa's changing mobility and manufacturing landscape?

Strategic reflection:
Which assumptions about the future of automotive technologies, manufacturing and mobility should the CNA begin questioning, and what new research capabilities or multidisciplinary partnerships might prove valuable across several possible futures?

Reading:
Mateko, F., Němečková, T., Gina, N., Musimuni, D., & Vutula, N. (2026). From policy to practice: Challenges and enablers of electric mobility in South Africa's automotive industry. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Transition, 9

International Energy Agency. (2026). Global EV outlook 2026: Executive summary.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667095X26000061
https://www.iea.org/reports/global-ev-outlook-2026/executive-summary

Monday, 16 November 2026
11:00 – 12:00

Join the Session on MS Teams
https://tinyurl.com/9mhy2cj5 OR
Teams Link

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FACILITATOR:
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