

Media Advisory

Unisa and ATNS to Sign MOU to Strengthen Aviation Research and Innovation Partnership

Approved for Public Release

Date: Thursday, 10 July 2025

The University of South Africa (Unisa) and Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) are set to formalise their partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), marking a significant step forward in advancing multidisciplinary research in air traffic management. Anchored in the university's Catalytic Niche Area on Aviation and Aeronautical Studies; an institutional priority championed by the Office of the Vice Principal: Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation, the project aims to advance multidisciplinary collaboration between academia and industry.

Initiated and launched in early 2024, the partnership aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry in the aviation sector. This Engaged Scholarship Project serves as a high-impact model of academic and industry collaboration, combining Unisa's strengths in research, teaching, and innovation with ATNS's operational and technical expertise, given the critical role of aviation in supporting economic growth and connectivity.

Together, the institutions are fostering a transformative approach to addressing the dynamic needs of South Africa's aviation sector. By aligning academic theory with real-world practice, the partnership positions Unisa and ATNS as leaders in co-developing sustainable solutions for the future of aviation education, training, and innovation in the region.

Ongoing consultations are underway to align the training qualifications offered by the ATNS Aviation Training Academy with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). These discussions include the formal accreditation of short learning programmes and the potential development of diploma offerings, in collaboration with Unisa's Academic Planning Office and the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology (CSET).

A structured monitoring and evaluation framework has been established to track progress and impact, with quarterly Unisa Engaged Scholarship reports supported by subcommittee updates and regular progress reviews. These efforts are geared toward ensuring the long-term institutionalisation and sustainability of the partnership.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 15 July 2025

Time: 09:00-15:00

Venue: Kgorong Function Hall, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

- Ends -



For RSVPs and interviews requests, please contact (Unisa: Senior Media Officers) Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / humartm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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