

Media Advisory:

UNISA and STAR.VISION to Sign MoU Launching Strategic Collaboration for AI Remote Sensing Satellite Program

Approved for Public Release

Date: Wednesday, 20 August 2025

The University of South Africa (UNISA) and STAR.VISION are set to formalize a groundbreaking partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today, Wednesday, 20 August 2025, at 15:00. The signing ceremony will take place at the STAR.VISION Exhibition Booth, CSIR International Convention Centre (ICC), as part of the ongoing space and innovation showcase.

This strategic partnership marks the official launch of the **Spaceborne AI Algorithm Rideshare Program**, a collaborative initiative focused on the design, development, testing, and deployment of advanced artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms for remote sensing satellites. The program will leverage STAR.VISION's cutting-edge satellite platforms and UNISA's research expertise in AI and data science.

Under the agreement, a joint Research and Development team will be established to lead the AI algorithm development efforts. UNISA will take responsibility for designing, developing, and optimizing the AI models, as well as supporting the coordination of on-orbit testing. STAR.VISION will provide technical support, training, relevant datasets, and oversee quality verification, uplink procedures, and on-orbit test operations aboard their satellites.

Dignitaries attending the ceremony includes Professor Puleng LenkaBula, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Unisa, Mr. Bruce Wei, Africa Business Manager, Department of Global Alliance, STAR.VISION and Mr. Humbulani Mudau, CEO of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA)

The collaboration underscores a shared commitment to fostering innovation and advancing South Africa's participation in the global space and AI sectors. Both parties intend to share key research progress and successful outcomes with the public through local and international media, subject to mutual agreement.

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

Date: Wednesday, 20 August 2025

Time: 15:00

Venue: CSIR ICC Star.Vision Exhibition Booth.

- 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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