

BDO FINANCIAL SERVICES

TECH TRENDS REPORT

MAY 2021

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS PLANS FOR TECH PRODUCTS MADE IN THE COUNTRY.

- ▶ According to Stella Ndabeni-Abrahms (Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies), buying locally manufactured products is a top goal.

The following items can be made locally:

- Manufacturing of infrastructure/ 5G network expansion components
- Phones and accessories
- Sensors and telematics for light detection and range (LiDAR); smart meters for water and energy, as well as other tracking applications; satellites and drone components
- ▶ South Africa's post-covid-19 recovery as a job creator will be aided by this technological industry.
- ▶ The department has now completed a "digital economy master plan" and is actively working on the implementation plan with various stakeholders.
- ▶ The success of this initiative is expected to add 4.5 percent of GDP every year to the economy.
- ▶ Over the next decade, this project will generate over a million employment and provide chances for small and medium-sized businesses.
- ▶ [Government wants South Africa to build its own phones and other tech products | BusinessTech](#)

ELECTRONIC DRIVER'S LICENSES ARE ON THE WAY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

- ▶ In preparation for the implementation of the country's first electronic driver's license, the Driving License Card Account (DLCA) is upgrading its systems significantly.
- ▶ In 2021/2022, the objective is to upgrade the driving license production environment, which will entail the purchase of a new production machine and the introduction of a new secure, high-quality, and durable license card.
- ▶ When the e-DL is first introduced, drivers will have the choice of applying for both a physical card and an electronic driver's license.
- ▶ The implementation of electronic licenses is conceivable due to the increasing use of mobile broadband in South Africa.
- ▶ Due to the increasing number of 4G/LTE device subscribers in South Africa who hold smartphones, it is expected that the adoption and issuing of e-DL would expand in popularity over time.
- ▶ Before introducing the new electronic driver's license, the DLCA plans to release a revised physical driver's license.
- ▶ According to the DLCA, the new license will be more in line with worldwide standards, and it will also allow for the introduction of innovative technologies.
- ▶ The new driver's license re-engineers the procedure to allow for greater agility and a focus on providing rapid and effective service.
- ▶ To support the new initiative, digital technologies such as blockchain and other associated technologies will be connected into the transportation system.
- ▶ [South Africa to get a new driver's license that works through your mobile phone | BusinessTech](#)

DRONES WERE USED TO FIND CRIMINALS IN THE SUBURBS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

- ▶ According to Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams (Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies), buying locally manufactured products is a top goal. The following items can be made locally:
 - Manufacturing of infrastructure/ 5G network expansion components
 - Phones and accessories
 - Sensors and telematics for light detection and range (LiDAR); smart meters for water and energy, as well as other tracking applications; satellites and drone components
- ▶ This technology sector is critical in assisting South Africa's post-covid-19 recovery and in creating jobs.
- ▶ The department has now completed a "digital economy master plan" and is actively working on the implementation plan with various stakeholders.
- ▶ The success of this initiative is expected to add 4.5 percent of GDP every year to the economy. Over the next decade, this project will generate over a million employment and provide chances for small and medium-sized businesses.
- ▶ [Government wants South Africa to build its own phones and other tech products \(businesstech.co.za\)](#)

GOOGLE SHARE BIG QUANTUM COMPUTING IDEAS

- ▶ Google said in 2019 that Sycamore, the company's state-of-the-art quantum computer, had completed a successful computation.
- ▶ This was a big accomplishment because the identical computation would take 10000 years on the most powerful supercomputers.
- ▶ Google has stated intentions to develop a functional error-computed quantum computer a year and a half later.
- ▶ In Santa Barbara, a Quantum AI campus has already been presented, equipped with just the best resources to help Google achieve its aim.
- ▶ The year 2029 has been established as the goal.
- ▶ If Google succeeds, it will be a huge step forward for all STEM subjects, allowing for faster development of solutions.
- ▶ [Google wants to build a useful quantum computer by 2029 - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Google's Quantum Computer Just Aced an 'Impossible' Test | Live Science](#)

ELECTRIC MOON VEHICLE COLLABORATION BETWEEN GENERAL MOTORS AND LOCKHEED MARTIN

- ▶ Lockheed Martin, a global aerospace and security company, has announced a futuristic partnership with General Motors.
- ▶ The companies have unveiled intentions to develop an autonomous vehicle for astronauts to operate on the moon's surface.
- ▶ The new concept was presented to NASA's Artemis program, which is looking for robots, vehicles, and scientific bases to be placed on the moon within the next decade.
- ▶ The vehicle is currently in the early stages of development, but it is expected to be made of lightweight, strong, and durable materials, extending its lifespan.
- ▶ As a result, astronauts will be able to travel faster and across longer distances.
- ▶ [Lockheed Martin and GM are working on an electric Moon buggy - The Verge](#)

MGM IS PURCHASED BY AMAZON FOR \$8.45 BILLION.

- ▶ Amazon is back in the news after announcing plans to purchase Metro Goldwyn Mayer.
- ▶ The distinctive lion roar display at the beginning of a movie is a trademark of the Metro Goldwyn Mayer studio.
- ▶ The Rocky franchise, Legally Blonde, The James Bond franchise, and more contemporary series The Handmaid's Tale and Vikings are among the many shows and movies produced by this studio.
- ▶ The new corporate partnership was met with skepticism by many.
- ▶ Some feel that this acquisition will help Amazon compete with streaming behemoths like Netflix and Disney.
- ▶ Given the vast library of films under MGM's control, Amazon may be able to turn this investment into a bigger profit.
- ▶ [Amazon's \\$8 billion bet on MGM won't make Prime Video the new Netflix - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Amazon buys MGM for \\$8.45 billion - The Verge](#)

IN A CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT OVER GENDER PAY INEQUALITY, TECH-GIANT GOOGLE

- ▶ The problem of wage disparities between men and women in the workplace is not new in 2021; it has been discussed for decades, and it has taken a lot of effort to even consider equal pay.
- ▶ A case against Google has revealed that this still happens to regular women, regardless of industry.
- ▶ It was discovered that women in similar occupations were paid \$17,000 less than their male counterparts.
- ▶ Although it is regrettable that it took a lawsuit for executives to discover that women were being underpaid, this is a significant victory for women in the software industry.
- ▶ This should prompt businesses all around the world to consider how their attitudes toward men and women influence their pay discrimination.
- ▶ [Google is now embroiled in a full class-action lawsuit over whether it underpaid women - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Department of Labor sues Google for withholding data in anti-discrimination audit - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Department of Labor claims that Google systematically underpays its female employees - The Verge](#)

ELON MUSK BREAKS THE CRYPTO INTERNET YET AGAIN

- ▶ Elon Musk, the tech billionaire, has been creating waves while also losing followers due to his influence in the cryptocurrency market.
- ▶ The Billionaire had said that Tesla might accept Bitcoin as a form of payment in the future, boosting the Crypto currency's market value.
- ▶ Tesla recently reversed its previous statement in light of the environmental concerns surrounding crypto mining.
- ▶ The truth is that crypto mining necessitates a lot of computing power, which necessitates a lot of electricity.
- ▶ This is unsurprising, given that Tesla automobiles were created to reduce the usage of fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.
- ▶ This should drive crypto aficionados all across the world to consider how they may deal with bitcoin while also being environmentally conscious.
- ▶ [Elon Musk and Bitcoin miners say they want to address crypto's sustainability problem - The Verge](#)
- ▶ [Chart: How bitcoin prices move with Elon Musk's tweets - Vox](#)

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