



For Immediate Release

OAo Investments Unveils Strategic Partnership with ChipLab to Empower South African Students and Fuel Semiconductor Innovation

OAo Investments and ChipLab Forge Transformative Partnership to Advance Tech Education in South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa, October 24, 2023.

OAo Investments is thrilled to announce a ground-breaking, long-term partnership with ChipLab, a pioneering leader in chip design and education, aimed at nurturing a new, "diverse generation of skilled microchip designers in Africa, targeting a 60% representation of women." Under its technology pillar, OAo Technology, this strategic collaboration will empower students and professionals with cutting-edge skills, foster innovation, and pave the way for the establishment of the first chip manufacturing plant in Africa.

Addressing the Skills Gap in South Africa:

South Africa, like many nations, faces a growing demand for skilled professionals in emerging technologies such as chip design and artificial intelligence (AI). Through this visionary partnership, OAo Technology will work closely with ChipLab to offer a comprehensive range of educational programs tailored to South Africa's evolving tech landscape. These programs will provide students with specialised knowledge in chip design, hardware development, and technology innovation, aligning perfectly with the demands of the digital age and emerging fields like artificial intelligence (AI).

Empowering Women in STEM:

This partnership embodies a deep commitment to promoting gender equality in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) industry. At OAo Investments, we hold a steadfast belief that the meticulousness, ingenuity, and unwavering determination of women are essential drivers of innovation in this rapidly evolving domain. The collaborative efforts between OAo Investments and ChipLab will strive to achieve a 60% representation of women among the skilled microchip designers in Africa.

Impact Funding for Sustainable Change:

Aligned with OAO Investments' commitment to creating positive societal impact, this collaboration will provide grant-funded educational opportunities to students, enabling them to access cutting-edge training and prepare for rewarding careers in technology. The initiative reflects OAO Investments' dedication to advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of education, gender equality, and alleviating poverty.

A Holistic Approach to Empowerment:

OAO Technology, through ChipLab's educational programs, will empower students with the skills required to excel in the technology sector. The programs will culminate in job placements, contributing to economic growth, reducing unemployment, and fostering gender equality within the technology industry.

Semiconductor Ecosystem Development:

In collaboration with ChipLab, OAO Investments will actively contribute to the growth and development of the semiconductor ecosystem in South Africa. This partnership will foster an environment conducive to innovation, research, and hands-on experience in chip design. This will not only benefit the local economy and contribute to global technological advancements.

First Cohort Begins in November 2023:

The first South African cohort of students will commence their training in the ChipLab Academy in November 2023, marking the first step in our journey to equip South Africans with the skills and knowledge to drive innovation and lead the tech revolution in the region.

Zamokuhle Aja-Okorie at OAO Investments, Managing Director, expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "This collaboration exemplifies our commitment to skills development, fostering innovation and paving the way for technological self-reliance. We believe that by empowering students with the skills needed for semiconductor design and fabrication, we can contribute to the growth of a vibrant technology ecosystem in Africa."

Ola Fadiran, CEO and Co-Founder of ChipLab, shared similar sentiments, saying, "Our mission at ChipLab has always been to bridge the gap in semiconductor education and support the growth of a robust ecosystem. Partnering with OAO Investments aligns perfectly with our goals and allows us to accelerate our mission."

This partnership represents a significant milestone in the journey towards establishing South Africa's first chip manufacturing plant. It underscores the importance of collaboration, education, and innovation in driving technological progress and economic growth.

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About OAO Investments:

One Africa Odyssey (OAO) Investments is a prominent 100% black female-owned South African private equity firm committed to driving transformative change and value creation across diverse industries. Through our six pillars, OAO Investments focuses on innovative solutions and strategic partnerships that foster growth and create lasting impact. Through a combination of expertise, resources, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, OAO Investments continues to shape industries and African communities for a brighter future.