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Saab invests two million rand for rural development

Telecommunications, Defence and Security company Saab South Africa donated R2million, for two iLab classrooms to rural schools in the Limpopo Province. This was done in partnership with the South Africa Army and Bakenberg Traditional Council.

“The donation is set to highlight the company’s continuous involvement in uplifting underprivileged communities and to cultivate relationships with leaders in these communities,” said Florence Musengi, Head of Communications and Public Affairs at Saab South Africa.

“The benefiting schools and communities, Mathulamisha High School of Mabuladihlare village in Bakenberg and Ditsepu Secondary School of Ga-Maja village in Polokwane, are set to receive fully operational iLab classrooms in July 2009,” Musengi added.

The Hawkstone iLab classrooms are self-contained and fully equipped turn-key computer educational facilities which provide learners in developing communities with access to a computer training environment. The units are linked to the internet and are designed as integrated solutions offering basic classroom equipment, ruggedized technology to prevent theft and vandalism, and control software.

We are proud to be associated with Saab and hopefully this initiative will bridge the digital divide by bringing ICT Solutions to our rural communities, said Lt Gen Solly Shoke, Chief of SA Army.

The iLab classroom uses one educator and accommodates 24 to 48 learners per classroom and carry the potential to provide the first tier of formal learning right through to advance schooling. The facilities employ easily maintainable technology that can be operated in remote areas. The system’s capability has been tested and successfully rolled out in the Gauteng Province.

“Saab prides itself in partnering with communities that strive to empower themselves through technology related initiatives. By donating Hawkstone iLab classrooms through a private public partnership, we acknowledge our commitment towards sustainable rural development and continue to encourage the communities to participate in educational programmes which focus on ICT,” concluded Florence Musengi.





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PRESS INFORMATION

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