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THE HUB FOR THE AFRICAN CITY OF THE FUTURE

A partnership between UKZN, McMaster and Hatch-Goba

UKZN-McMaster-Hatch-Goba Workshop
Durban – 24 March 2015



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THE IDEA

THE GATEWAY TO AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

Partners: UKZN, McMaster Univ., Hatch-Goba and Hatch Inc.

The vision: To create a strong hub of knowledge, innovation, infrastructural and societal growth in the African Continent with fulcrum at UKZN.



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The **Gateway to Africa Partnership** focuses on two main aspects:

Building Cities of the future/Creating Corridors of Movements which aims at creating knowledge, fostering scholarship and innovation, forming competent engineers that can sustain and actively drive the societal and infrastructural development of South Africa and the rest of the African Continent.

The **McMaster-UKZN Academic Partnership** which provides a platform for active exchange and engagement between staff and students between the two institutions towards (among others) the following goals:

- International Teaching and Research Collaborations
- Economic Leadership and Development (Entrepreneurship)
- Student engagement



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CHALLENGES

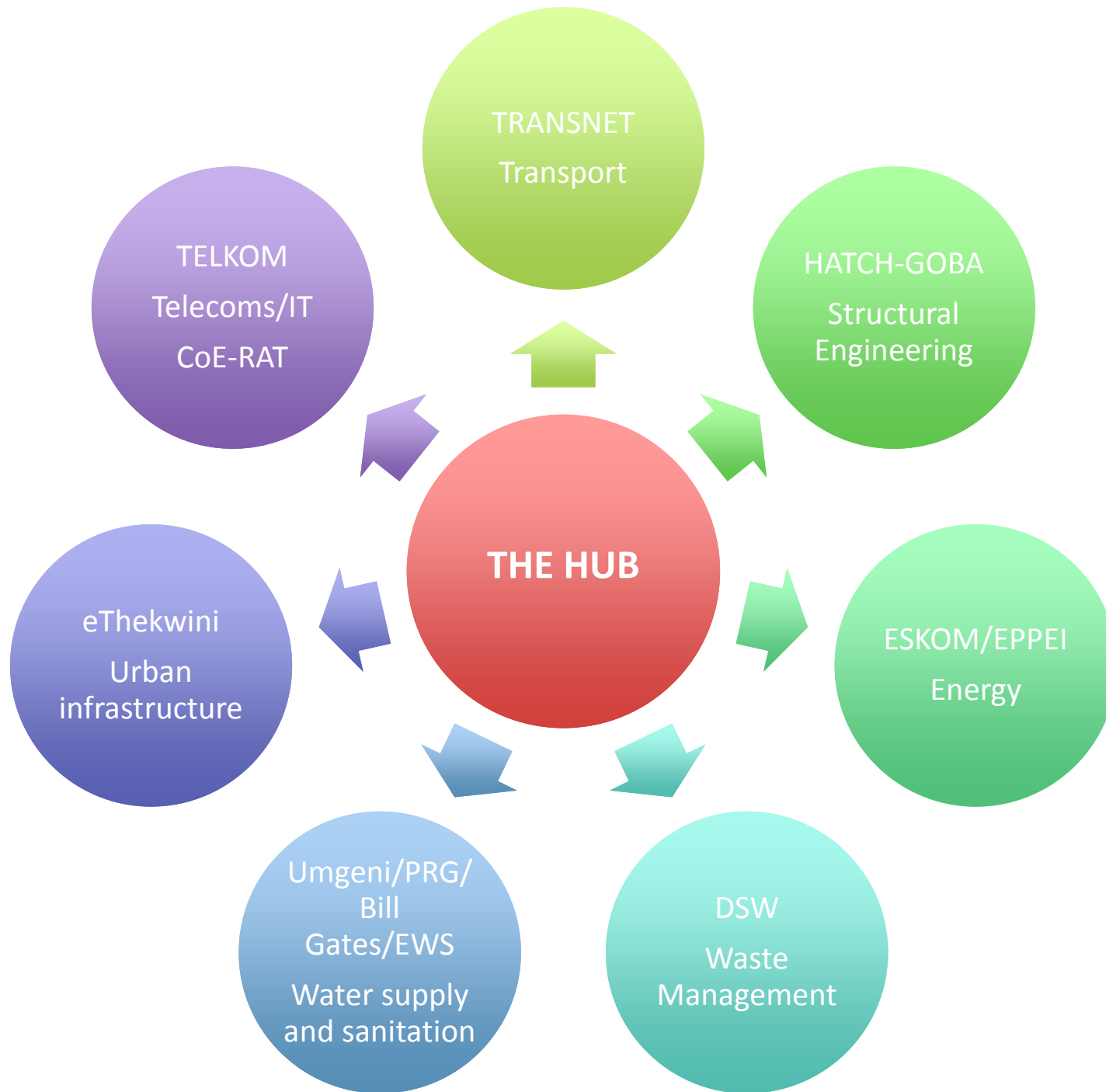


- **Critical shortage** of Civil Engineering capacity in South Africa that is severely impacting academia
- Severe challenges in attracting and retaining high quality senior academic staff
- This critical challenge **affects** the quality of our **research/scholarship and knowledge production, our ability to foster innovation** in addressing the goals of the National Development Plan as well as **our ability to position UKZN-Engineering as the Gateway towards Africa for the development of the African Cities in of the Future.**
- The **need for mentoring** our young academics to grow their professional experience and skills basis interfacing them with industry on real projects.
- Finally, a critical gap identified in our interaction with industry is **the need to develop entrepreneurial skills of both staff and students.**
- UKZN-Engineering has centres of excellence in key areas that are relevant to this partnership: Coastal Engineering, Water and Environmental Engineering, Waste and Resources Management, Power and Energy Systems/Smart Grid, Telecommunications, Process Engineering, Manufacturing and Mechatronics

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- Enabling UKZN-Engineering and the Civil Engineering Programme in particular to position itself as Centre of Excellence in South Africa and the African Continent on Sustainable/Resilient/Innovative African Cities (with focus on Urban and Infrastructure Engineering) and to become a model for other developing/emerging countries;
- Providing sustainable long-term financial and infrastructural support to UKZN-Engineering towards accomplishing the vision of the Gateway to Africa Partnership with Hatch Inc and McMaster;
- Addressing the challenges enumerated above and maximising the existing strengths by attracting support from leading stakeholders such as Transnet, ESKOM, eThekweni, Umgeni Water etc. under the umbrella of the hub;
- Providing ad-hoc expert teaching services, skills training of staff and students, opportunities for vacation work and experiential learning to our undergraduates and supervision capacity to our postgraduates drawing from the large pool of expertise within Hatch-Goba.
- Assisting in developing entrepreneurial skills of our staff and students.
- Promoting Research Development and Innovation in Infrastructure Engineering by becoming one of the major stakeholders in the UKZN Science and Technology Innovation Park.





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THANK YOU
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