

DIGITAL COAST

An Overview



About Digital Coast

Digital Coast is being formed as a representative body of the Information Technology, Communications and Electronics (ICT & E) industries in KwaZulu-Natal.

Aims of Digital Coast

The aim of Digital Coast is to encourage the development of a vibrant and innovative technology industry by providing an array of developmental, supportive, interactive, representative, and advocacy services.

Digital Coast Initiatives

Various initiatives have been identified as core to the aims of Digital Coast which include:

“Think Local” Campaign

The “Think Local” campaign will be driven by Digital Coast to focus all role players on the concept of sourcing services and goods from local, regional, national, continental and then international suppliers in that order of preference.

Supply, Services and Skills Database

This database would be used to support the “Think Local” campaign as well as a number of the other initiatives of Digital Coast. This database will allow free, easy and non-discriminatory access to information about all suppliers in the industry.

Code of Conduct

Digital Coast will develop a code of conduct for the industry and ensure compliance with its letter and intent. Subscription to the code of conduct will be voluntary, but the public database will indicate whether a company subscribes to the code of conduct.

Industry Networking, Collaboration and Partnering

The roots of Digital Coast lie in that of an informal group of individuals who met regularly for networking, collaboration and partnering purposes. The founding of Digital Coast and the introduction of the database will allow for expanded industry networking, formation of partnerships and collaboration on projects.

Conferences and Seminars

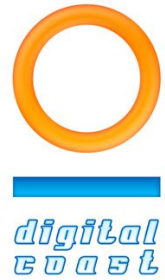
The vast majority of conferences and seminars occur outside of KwaZulu-Natal. These and new events will be brought to the province as they are crucial in keeping the industry informed and providing exposure to local participants.

Supplier Education and Certification

One of the efforts of Digital Coast is to increase, expand and improve upon the skills and capabilities of service providers in the province. Acting as a representative body, Digital Coast would be able to prevail upon vendors to extend additional resources towards this.

Skills Development

Developing skills and stimulating new entrants into the ICT & E industry is essential to sustained economic growth. To ensure this occurs, Digital Coast will work in partnership with its constituency, academic and other education focussed organisations to identify and support the development of those individuals who show potential.



Encouraging Enterprise Development

Growing the ICT & E economy in KwaZulu-Natal can only be achieved by stimulating a culture of innovation and competitiveness. Digital Coast will constantly be on the look out for new opportunities to advance this goal and work with the industry, government, academia and other role-players in the ongoing effort to create this innovative and competitive environment.

Digital Coast Membership

Membership is free and open to anyone with an interest or stake in the Information Technology, Communications or Electronics industries.

Application for Membership

Applications for membership can be emailed to membership@digitalcoast.org.za or applied for on-line at <http://www.digitalcoast.org.za/join/>.