

AFSA INTERNATIONAL ALUMINIUM CONFERENCE 2026

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Session 1: Local & Global Aluminium Market Trends	
07:30 – 08:30	Registration & Refreshments
08:30 – 08:40	Programme Director
08:40 – 08:55	Official Opening Remarks: AFSA Chairman Mr Sudesh Singh – Zimco Metals
08:55 – 09:20	Platinum Conference Partner Address Mr Noel Pillay – COO South32
09:20 – 09:50	Keynote Address: Mr Alex Christopher – <i>Global Aluminium Outlook</i> Alex joined CRU in June 2021 and is a Senior Analyst in the Aluminium Team, based in London. He leads CRU Aluminium Long Term Service and is the in-house specialist for primary aluminium supply and CBAM. Alex also has experience in the CRU Multi Commodity Team and as an Exploration Geologist.
09:50 – 10:10	Refreshments & Networking
Session 2: Sustainability and Environmental Impact	
10:10 – 10:40	Mr Seutame Maimeme – <i>Border Carbon Adjustments</i> Seutame Maimeme is an Economist at Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS). His focus areas include global climate change policies and trade and designing climate-compatible value chains for carbon-intensive industries in South Africa and Africa.
10:40 – 11:10	Ms Nelisiwe Mathebula - <i>The Sustainable Impact of Renewable Energy in the Aluminium Industry</i> Nelisiwe helps organisations decarbonise their operations and lower their energy costs through power purchase agreements (PPAs). She holds a Master of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (cum laude) from University of Johannesburg and degrees from Tshwane University of Technology.
11:10 – 11:40	Mr Brenno Ferreira – <i>Decarbonizing Aluminium Melting: The Role of Oxyfuel and Hydrogen Combustion Technologies</i> A Metallurgical Engineer with 15+ years in metals and pursuing a master’s in international business, drives aluminium solutions at Linde. Expert in combustion and decarbonization, he leads non-ferrous applications for Linde Technology (USA).
11:40 – 12:10	Mr Grant Leppan - <i>Technology pathways to increasing the localisation of aluminium components in the SA automotive sector</i> Prior to supporting naamsa in 2019 on localisation projects, he was employed at various MNC companies, both locally and abroad to deliver operational (manufacturing) transformations. A former trained geologist he has spent most of my career fostering excellence across entire value chains.
12:10 – 12:40	Mrs Bridget Zuma – Rubambura – <i>Optimising Aluminium Scrap Recycling: A Data Analytics Approach for 3104 (AlMn1Mg1Cu) Alloy Recycling</i> Executive leader and metallurgical expert with deep insight into aluminium and waste valorisation systems. Board member of MetPac and Pro Alliance Board member. Holds a BEng, Master’s in Physical Metallurgy, and is a PhD candidate at Wits, with proven strength in ERP governance.
12:40 – 13:40	Lunch & Networking
Session 3: Aluminium Research and Development	
13:40 – 14:10	Prof Amogelang Sylvester Bolokang – <i>The Future of Aluminium Research</i> Professor at the university of Johannesburg, Department of Metallurgy. He has an extensive industrial experience having worked for ArcelorMittal, Scaw metals, Transnet Engineering, Aluminum (Zimco group) and CSIR. He is a NRF C-rated scientist, Authored Journal papers, chapters and books.
14:10 – 14:40	Dr Ntombi Mathe – <i>Additive Manufacturing of Aluminium Alloys: From research to industrial application</i> Dr. Ntombi Mathe is a Principal Researcher at the CSIR, SACNAP registered professional Natural Scientist, and an NRF C2-rated scientist, holding a PhD in Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has published over 12 papers in aluminium additive manufacturing and graduate students
14:40 – 15:10	Dr Sarah George – <i>Industry and academia collaborations to support the South African aluminium industry</i>

	Dr Sarah George is an academic from the University of Cape Town, where she is part of the Aluminium Research Group. Her research focus is on thermo-mechanical processing of aluminium alloys and advanced microstructural and property characterisation.
15:10 – 15:40	Dr Shumane Joseph Moema – <i>Roll bonding of aluminium coupons using the established fully-fledged off-line fabrication facilities – TMP</i> Dr Joseph Moema is a metallurgist engineer and Head at Mintek: Physical Metallurgy Group in the Advanced Materials Division. Pr. Eng Technologists (Candidate), ECSA. A PhD holder specialising in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Pretoria (UP).
15:40 – 16:10	Dr Dreyer Bernard - <i>Industrial Deployment of Friction Stir Welding: A Case Study on Aluminium Road Tankers</i> Dreyer Bernard is a "Group Specialist (Research and Innovation)" at eNtsa, NMU. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering which focused on friction stir welding. He is extensively involved in applied research supporting industrial implementation of FSW technologies in the road tanker industry.
17:00 – 19:00	Cocktail & Networking Event

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DAY 2: 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Session 1: Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation	
08:00 – 09:00	Registrations & Networking
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Note Programme Director
09:10 – 09:40	Ms Lungile Mncwabe – <i>A Mechanistic Review of Thermal De-Coating Processes in Light-Gauge Aluminium Recycling</i> She works as a Process Engineer at Hulamin and holds a Six Sigma Yellow Belt certification, specialising in secondary recycled aluminium. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she is conducting research on thermal de-coating. She leverages lean methodologies and data-driven analysis to drive operational efficiency.
09:40 – 10:10	Prof Pita Mothibeli – <i>Reinforcement of recycled aluminium matrix composite by leadwood particles</i> Prof. Mothibeli is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical, Bioresources, and Biomedical Engineering at the University of South Africa (UNISA). He holds various roles as Chair of the Product Development flagship and his research focus is on materials science
10:10 – 10:40	Dr Volker Schuette - <i>Usage of Aluminium post-consumer scrap in South Africa in comparison to the global trend</i> Volker Schütte, born 1958 in Germany, Resident in South Africa since 1983. Director of companies: MTT (PTY)LTD. in Johannesburg and Cape Town, LODEC METALL GmbH in Bremen and Hamburg in Germany, LODEC ASIA in Shanghai, LODEC ASIA in Singapore and Thailand and others.
10:40 – 11:10	Refreshments & Networking
Session 2: Aluminium Production – Fabrication, Castings, Extrusions, Surface Finishing	
11:10 – 11:40	Dr Gonasagren Govender – <i>Alloy Design Considerations: The product, process, alloy development cycle for multicomponent structures consolidation</i> Gonasagren Govender graduated with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 1999 at the University of KwaZulu Natal. He lectured for 11 years and was an employee of the CSIR from 2003 to June 2024, leading the ACT Group from 2006 -2024. Currently he is the director of Rapid Casting Solutions (Pty) Ltd
11:40 – 12:10	Dr Anne Deacon Juhl – <i>Modern Anodising: Performance, sustainability and competitive advantages in aluminium surface finishing</i> Anne Deacon Juhl is an anodizing specialist with over 25 years' experience and a Ph.D. in Pulse Anodizing who helps companies move from reactive troubleshooting to stable, high-performing operations. Through AluConsult, she builds structured systems, repeatable processes, and stronger technical capability to deliver consistent, scalable results and long-term performance.
12:10 – 12:40	Dr Monnamme Tlotleng - <i>Grain Refiners for Aluminium and Titanium Alloys</i>

	Dr Tlotleng holds MSc in Engineering from Wits and Doctor of Engineering from UJ. He is currently a Research Leader in the Instrument Group at the Council for Mineral Technology of South Africa (Mintek) and Extraordinary Senior Lecture at NWU and is NRF C3-Rated. He has supervised 14 M and 4 PhDs.
12:40 – 13:10	Lunch & Networking
Session 3: Aluminium Research and Development	
13:10 – 13:40	Prof Gotthard Wolf – CO₂-free melting technologies for aluminium Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gotthard Wolf is Professor and Director of the Foundry Department at the Technical University Freiberg, Germany with extensive leadership experience across industry and academia, including roles at Mahle GmbH, the German Institute of Foundry Technology, and the German Foundrymen's Association. He holds a PhD from RWTH Aachen and has authored more than 90 technical and scientific publications.
13:40 – 14:10	Dr Fiona Solomon – 10 years of ASI Certification – building responsible aluminium value chains The CEO of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative since 2015. She has worked in sustainability research and initiatives in metals for just under 3 decades. She has a PhD in philosophy of technology and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
14:10 – 14:40	Mr Robert Lawrence – Handheld Laser Technology A retired welding engineer from the UK. His first ten years in South Africa were spent in various fabrication companies. Rob is an Engineering Council of South Africa approved trainer on gas safety in South Africa
14:40 – 14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Director Conference Closure and Announcements • Refreshments