

# AI AFRICA CONSORTIUM

*Opening Africa to AI Research, Application and  
Commercialisation.*



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



100  
1922  
2022

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application in Africa have the potential to drive innovation in industry and shape the societal landscape of tomorrow. While Africa was largely absent from the Internet Revolution there is now a growing realisation of the importance of technology in building societal prosperity. With the growth in learning and communication, and with several strong and internationally competitive universities there is substantial interest in AI from faculty and students in the region. Yet the region has not expanded fast enough to fully realize the opportunities presented and there is now a rapidly growing need for talent, infrastructure, and funding to support innovation.

To move beyond the hype and be competitive with the substantial accumulation of resources in North America and more recently in Asia, requires efforts on a magnitude far greater than any previous spanning academia and industry. This has led to the formation of Cirrus, to bring about a step-change in the research and application of AI in the region and the establishment of the AI Africa Consortium.

The establishment of the AI Africa Consortium, led by the University of the Witwatersrand, aims to provide a mechanism to bring together various role-players who have a vested interest in the success and sustainability of Cirrus. The Consortium Members are comprised of universities, research organizations, and government agencies. These institutions are the primary beneficiaries of the infrastructure, engineering capacity, and learning programs developed as part of Cirrus. Therefore, through the Consortium these institutions will be granted the opportunity to provide feedback, help promote the activities and shape the future direction of Cirrus.



# MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

*The Consortium is Comprised of Two Membership Tiers:*

## ***Tier 1 Consortium Members***



Tier 1 Members are entities that appoint Ambassadors and are therefore able to influence Consortium activities and governance through the Ambassador Advisory Network. Tier 1 Members have a higher priority for accessing Cirrus resources and for collaborating on new funding opportunities.

## ***Tier 2 Consortium Members***

Tier 2 Members are entities that do not appoint Ambassadors, but still have access to many Cirrus resources.

### **About the Ambassadors**

*Ambassadors serve as community builders, making connections between people and resources. Ambassadors will be senior strategic individuals within their local institution and will be supported by a project manager where necessary.*

# BENEFITS TABLE

	Tier 1	Tier 2
<b>Cirrus</b>		
Global Collaboration Network	Integration with Ambassador Advisory Network	
Partner and Affiliate Program	Integration with Ambassador Advisory Network	✓
Co-development program	Integration with Ambassador Advisory Network	✓
Open Learning	✓	✓
Summer and Winter programs	✓	✓
Salons and teatime sessions	✓	✓
Academic programs	Priority Access	✓
Research to Communication program	Priority Access	✓
Digital Asset Locker	Priority Access	✓
Sandbox	Priority Access	✓
HPC platform	Priority Access	✓
Research support	Priority Access	✓
Infrastructure programs (FABRIC hank node, Open Storage Network etc)	Priority Access	✓
Right to host events at Consortium forums	✓	
Inclusion on Consortium led contracts	Priority inclusion through Ambassador Advisory Network	✓
Ambassador Advisory Network	✓	
Distribution of Consortium Member's marketing material	✓	✓
<b>Cirrus FOUNDRY</b>		
Monthly classes events and workshops	✓	✓
Academic programs	Priority Access	
<b>Cirrus FOUNDRY Fund</b>		
Pre-seed	✓	✓
Seed	✓	✓

# CONTACT

To join the AI Africa Consortium contact us at:



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