

Meraka Institute – SAP Research Unit for Technology Development

Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Brussels
27 June 2006

Contents

- Introduction to partners
- Background to collaboration
- Focus of activities
- Human capital development
- Governance model
- Projects model

Introduction to partners

- ***Department of Science and Technology, South Africa***
 - National government department responsible for fostering R&D and Innovation through policy and implementation interventions.
- ***Meraka Institute (African Advanced Institute for ICT)***
 - is a strategic initiative of the South African Government, has as its major objective to promote national economic and social development through human capital development and needs-based research and innovation in the ICT sector.
 - National research centre managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ***SAP Research***
 - ***SAP Research AG:***
 - is a major source contributing to strategic innovation of SAP together with the research institutions of SAP's partners and world class universities.
 - ***SAP Research CEC Pretoria:***
 - the first SAP Research Centre in a developing region, was formally established in 2005.
 - It has its offices in Pretoria.
 - Its establishment followed three years of active research involvement in SA in the education and training sector.

Background ..

- **Targets of policy framework in ICT research and innovation**
 - **Achieve global leadership in identified key scientific and technological domains.**
 - **Develop multi-disciplinary technologies, skills and methodologies to address areas of market neglect, especially to eradicate the Digital Divide.**
 - **An indigenous ICT sector that is developed, growing, innovative and competitive.**
 - **The smart proliferation of ICT within other sectors of the economy.**
- **Agreement between the parties on the establishment of the Meraka/SAP Unit for Technology Development was announced on Wednesday 3rd May 2006.**
 - **(The Department of Science and Technology, the Meraka Institute, SAP (Research CEC Pretoria) and SAP (Research) AG in Germany.)**

..Background

- **A significant partnership likely to attract funding and co-investment from various sources of the value of up to R100 million over the next 5 years, between SAP Africa and South Africa's Meraka Institute, supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)**
- **The SAP Meraka Unit will help SAP, as a global organisation, understand the technology needs of emerging economies**
 - **enable SAP to make their products and services more relevant to those markets.**
 - **adjustments made to SAP technology for emerging markets is also going to streamline the products on offer in their established markets.**

Focus of Activities..

- The facility will undertake basic and applied information and communications technology (ICT) research aimed at fostering technology innovation in South Africa and the region.
- The creation of new technology knowledge (innovation) and the development of an expert understanding of the technology needs of developing economies
- Applied research and the application of new and available knowledge to develop infrastructure, hardware and software solutions to overcome the challenges facing the introduction and utilisation of technology for development in emerging economies

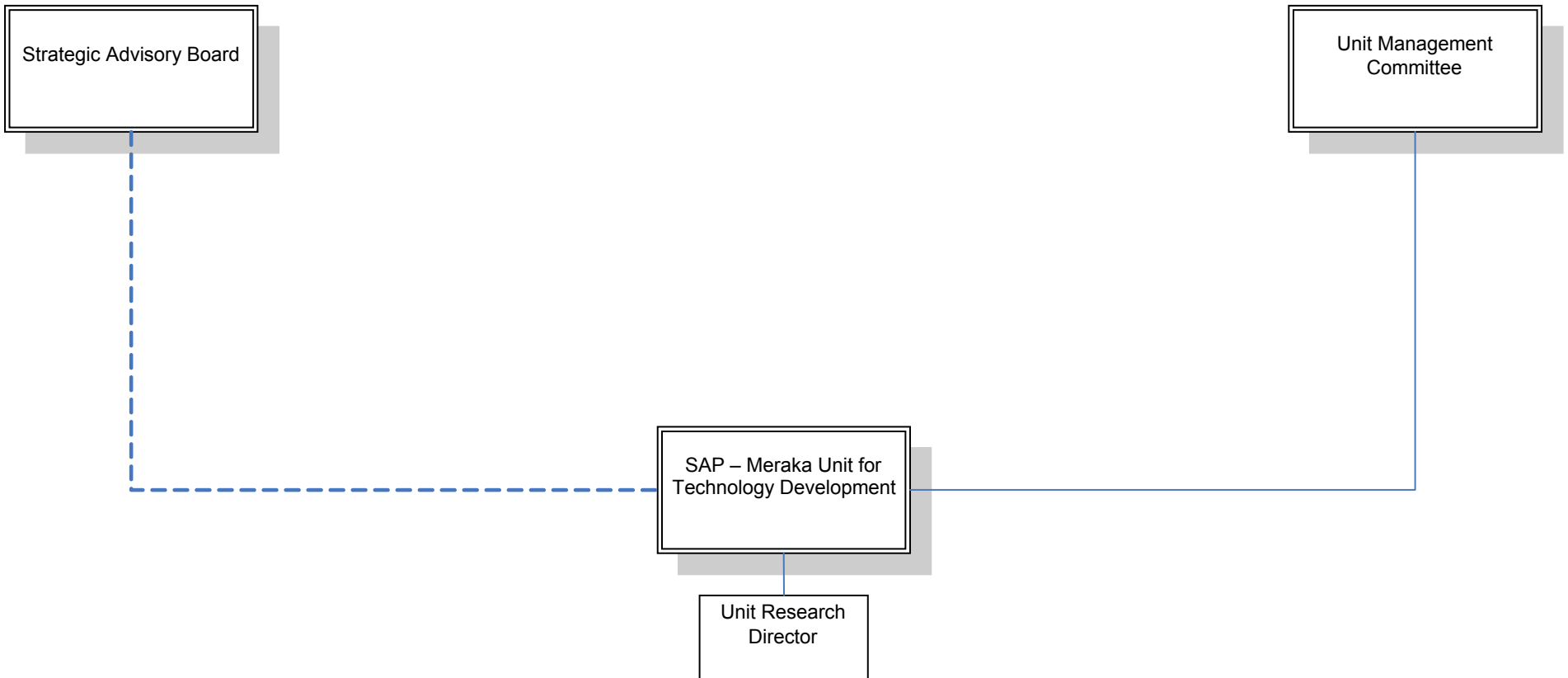
..Focus of Activities

- Opening new markets for technology solutions, from which local entrepreneurs and markets in emerging economies can benefit
- Advanced human capital development, particularly to historically disadvantaged individuals .
- **Refinement of its goals and objectives will take place in the first year of the establishment of this Unit.**

Human Capital Development

- High premium placed on human capital development by the SAP – Meraka partnership.
 - Research & innovation leadership enabler
 - Mentoring
 - Exchanges
- Availing of training and fellowship opportunities for researchers from historically disadvantaged communities
- Attracting scarce skills into country (brain circulation) – particularly Diaspora

Governance Model



Projects

- The **Unit** has three types of research and development projects:
 - *Bilateral projects:*
 - where the research and development activities will be a combined effort between the **Unit** and SAP (Research CEC Pretoria)
 - *Consortium projects:*
 - where the **Unit** will engage SAP (Research CEC Pretoria), as well as other organisations in specific research and development projects
 - *Third party projects:*
 - where SAP (Research CEC Pretoria) will not be a party to a project.

Thank You

www.meraka.org.za
www.sap.co.za

Strategic Advisory Board

- A **Scientific Advisory Board** providing research and development leadership and guidance, comprising representatives of the Department of Science and Technology, SAP (Research) AG, Board of Meraka Institute and identified internationally recognised academics and researchers in the field identified.
- [Governance Model](#)

Unit Management Committee

- A **Unit Management Committee** approving research and development strategy, implementation of strategy and resource allocation. The Management Board comprises the Unit Research Director, Director SAP Research CEC Pretoria, Department of Science and Technology representative and a nominated Meraka Institute representative.
- A **Unit Research Director** responsible for the Unit, reporting to the Unit Management Committee in respect of all management activities.
 - The Research Director will be appointed by the Meraka Institute at the recommendation of the Unit Scientific Advisory Board.
- [Governance Model](#)