

## PRESS RELEASE

### Botswana Innovation Hub Turns the Soil to Start Infrastructure Works

On **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010**, the Botswana Innovation Hub (Pty) Ltd will host the groundbreaking ceremony for the Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) in collaboration with Botswana Development Corporation (BDC). The ceremony marks the commencement of construction of site master-plan infrastructure works of the BIH and is an important milestone in its development. This will take place on the BIH site, **Plot 69184, in Block 8**, Gaborone at 0730hrs.

The groundbreaking will be performed by the Minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology, Honourable Johnie Swartz. It will be graced by stakeholders across government, foreign missions resident in Botswana and the private sector.

The Botswana Innovation Hub implementation project, run under the Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology (MIST), is one of the key projects identified by the country to promote an information and knowledge society that harnesses creativity and innovation. It is one of the initiatives intended to facilitate economic diversification and growth by creating more private businesses in the country. This will be done in three ways: offering a business incubation platform for new start-ups; helping potential existing companies to grow; and attracting foreign companies to come to Botswana. This will be done in 4 focus areas namely; Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), Mining technologies, Energy & Environment and Biotechnology. As a science and technology park, the Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) is being established as a commercial nexus for knowledge creation and innovation. It is the first of its kind in Botswana. The Botswana Innovation Hub will connect high technology innovators, market experts and capital providers to transform ideas into viable business ventures.

It is envisaged that the Innovation Hub will act as a catalyst to catapult Botswana into an information and knowledge economy through the establishment of knowledge-based businesses as well as relevant research and development (R & D) activities. It will bring together R & D institutions, industry leading companies and universities to create synergies for innovative output. The Hub will be a one-stop "plug-and-play" environment, providing office space for rent and developed land for lease, conference, meeting and training facilities, laboratory space for R & D activities, recreational facilities and cafeteria. BIH will provide companies with flexible premises and quality business services thus offering a truly world-class business environment that complements the high-tech image of companies operating here.

Botswana Innovation Hub has also been established as a company, Botswana Innovation Hub (Pty) Ltd with a subsidiary property company Botswana Innovation Hub Property (Pty) Ltd. The latter is a special purpose vehicle that will own the land and buildings, concentrating only on the property development. The private shareholding in the BIH Property Company shall be up to 49 % and will be offered to private investors in the near future.

The Botswana Innovation Hub Implementation Office has contracted the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) to manage and coordinate design and construction of infrastructure, which



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includes master planning/urban design, infrastructure design and construction and design and construction of the icon building and annexes.

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**For more information:**

Please visit the Botswana Innovation Hub website [www.bih.co.bw](http://www.bih.co.bw) or Contact:  
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