

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

22 October 2026

Armcor and UNISA join forces to advance cyber-defence education

The Armaments Corporation of South Africa SOC Limited (Armcor) and the University of South Africa (Unisa) have signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cyber-defence education, skills and capacity development, training, research and innovation in support of South Africa's national and defence security requirements.

The partnership brings together Armcor's defence-sector expertise and understanding of operational requirements with Unisa's academic capabilities, research expertise and technological resources. The collaboration will support the development of solutions to emerging national and defence security challenges, while contributing to the advancement of specialised skills in the increasingly important field of cybersecurity.

The agreement will support the Armcor Defence Cyber Academy by providing a strategic framework for collaboration between the two institutions. Through this partnership, Armcor and Unisa will explore opportunities to integrate defence requirements with academic knowledge and technological capabilities to strengthen cyber-defence capacity.

Commenting on the partnership, Adv. Solomzi Mbada, CEO – Armcor, said the agreement represents an important step towards building sustainable cyber-defence capabilities through collaboration between government, academia and the defence sector.

"Cybersecurity has become an integral component of national security and defence capability. As the nature of cyber threats continues to evolve, we must ensure that our defence capabilities are supported by the right skills, knowledge, research and technological solutions. This partnership with Unisa provides an opportunity to bring together complementary strengths in pursuit of that objective," said Adv. Mbada.

The MoU provides for the initiation and support of collaborative research and development projects in areas of mutual interest relating to defence, cybersecurity and associated technologies. The partnership will also facilitate information-sharing sessions, seminars and related initiatives aimed at promoting continuous professional development, knowledge exchange and innovation.

Adv. Mbada said the partnership would also help bridge the gap between academic research and the industry's practical skill requirements of the defence environment.

“The value of research is ultimately realised when knowledge can be translated into practical solutions. Through the Armscor Defence Cyber Academy, we want to create an environment where academic expertise, research and technological innovation can respond directly to real-world defence requirements. Our collaboration with Unisa strengthens our ability to develop capabilities that are relevant, sustainable and responsive to the cyber threats facing our country,” he said.

The partnership further recognises the importance of developing a pipeline of specialised cybersecurity skills capable of supporting South Africa’s defence and security environment. Through joint initiatives, the two institutions will seek to promote knowledge transfer, cyber skills development and innovation while creating opportunities for researchers and specialists to contribute to areas of strategic importance.

To ensure effective implementation of the agreement, Armscor and Unisa will establish a Joint Steering Committee to oversee and monitor the implementation plan, coordinating areas of collaboration and tracking progress against agreed objectives.

The MoU reinforces Armscor’s commitment to leveraging partnerships with academic and research institutions to support the development of innovative defence solutions and strengthen the broader national defence ecosystem.

ENDS

Caption – MOU 1: From Right to Left: Advocate Solomzi Mbada (Chief Executive Officer of Armscor) and Dr Azwindini Tshivhase (Acting Vice Principal for Teaching, Learning, Community Engagement and Student Support at the University of South Africa) signal their intentions to work together in areas of mutual interest relating to defence, cybersecurity and associated technologies.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Ms Liziwe Nkonyana

Senior Manager: Corporate Communication

Tel: +27 12 428 3645

Email: liziwen@armscor.co.za
