

# IBT<sup>2026</sup>

INNOVATIVE BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES

## SUMMIT

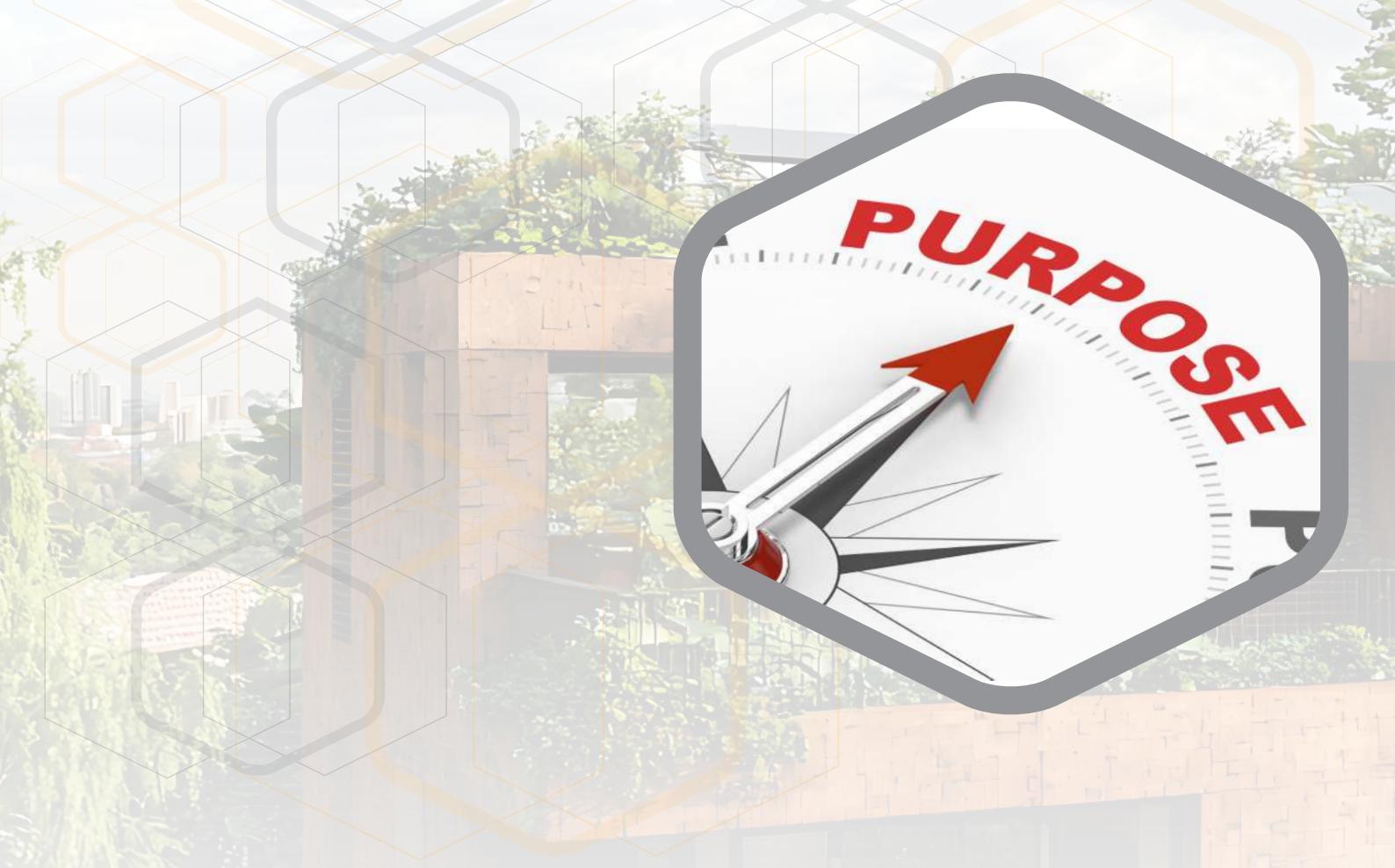
3 - 4 FEBRUARY 2026 NASREC, JOHANNESBURG  
**CONCEPT BRIEF**



**human settlements**

Department:  
Human Settlements  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





## 1. PURPOSE

The IBT Presidential Summit will bring together government, industry, financiers, researchers, innovators, and communities to shape a national agenda for accelerating the adoption of Innovative Building Technologies in South Africa.

As a Presidential Summit and pre-SONA event, it will elevate IBTs as a national priority and reinforce the President's call for modernisation, efficiency and infrastructure-led growth. The Summit will build a shared national understanding of how IBTs can deliver better, faster, and climate-resilient human settlements, while creating jobs and stimulating industrialisation.

## 2. BACKGROUND

South Africa faces growing demand for housing, high construction costs, delays in project delivery, and the need for sustainable solutions in the face of climate change. Globally, countries are using new construction technologies like modular systems, engineered materials, and digital tools to build faster and more efficiently.

South Africa has strong innovation capacity, but widespread IBT adoption has been slow. Government, industry and research partners have expressed a clear need for a coordinated platform to align on standards, regulations, funding, innovation, and community acceptance. The Summit is part of a national shift toward modernising the human settlements sector, supported by whole-of-government leadership.



### 3. WHY A PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT?

#### **A Presidential Summit ensures:**

- High-level political leadership for a national IBT transition.
- Alignment across all national, provincial and local government spheres.
- Whole-of-government coherence, fast-tracked decision pathways, and clear accountability.
- A catalyst for public - private partnerships and large-scale investment.





## 4. WHO WILL ATTEND?

**The Summit will bring together 500 participants from:**

- The President
- The Human Settlements Minister and her Deputy
- Cabinet Ministers and senior officials
- Provincial MECs and municipalities
- CEOs from the construction and development industries
- IBT innovators, manufacturers, and solution providers
- Financiers, development banks, insurers, investors
- Universities, research institutions, CSIR
- Community-based organisations and civil society
- International partners and diplomatic missions



## 5. OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

The Summit aims to:



### 5.1 Establish a National IBT Policy Position

Outline how IBTs will be mainstreamed in human settlements over the next decade.



### 5.2 Achieve Whole-of-Government Alignment

Bring together all relevant departments to align policies, programmes, standards and responsibilities.



### 5.3 Unlock Finance and Investment

Explore new funding models that support IBT delivery, industrialisation and adoption at scale.



### 5.4 Accelerate Research, Innovation & Evidence-Based Practice

Ensure continuous R&D pipelines for new materials and processes, including knowledge-sharing platforms that inform policy and practice.



### 5.5 Strengthen Partnerships for Implementation

Bring government, industry, communities and financiers into a shared commitment reflected in the National IBT Compact.



## 6. SUMMIT FORMAT

### Plenary Sessions

- The Future of Housing and Global Innovation Trends
- Scaling Human Settlements IBTs Across South Africa
- Funding and Investment Models for IBT Uptake
- Modernising Regulations and Standards
- Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Human Settlements
- Manufacturing & Localisation
- Approvals, Standards & Regulatory Reform
- Technology Readiness & Market Access
- Research, Innovation
- Community Acceptance & Social Facilitation

### IBT Exhibition and Demonstration

- A full-scale technology showcase at NASREC, featuring:
- Modular units
- New construction materials
- Robotics and automation
- Digital design and smart technologies
- 3D Printing

# 7. PRE-SUMMIT PREPARATORY PROCESS

A series of Pre-Summit Dialogues will be hosted from November to December 2025 to consolidate positions ahead of the Presidential event:

## 1. Government Pre-Summit

all key national departments, provinces and municipalities

## 2. Industry & Innovators Pre-Summit

manufacturers, contractors, developers, technology providers

## 3. Science & Research Community Pre-Summit

Academic institutions, CSIR, research councils

## 4. Financiers Pre-Summit

banking sector, DFIs, insurers, investors

## 5. Community-Based Organisations Pre-Summit

NGOs, housing movements, community networks



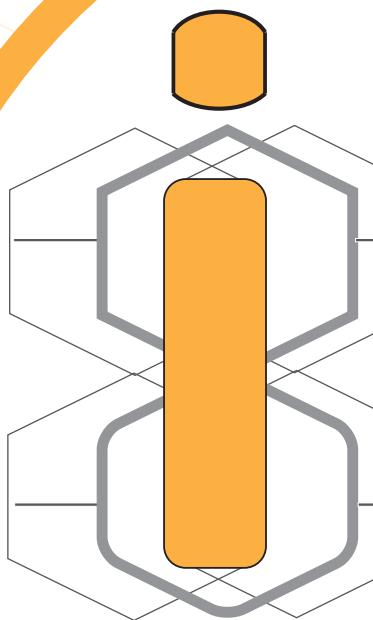
## 8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

**The Presidential Summit will culminate in:**

- A National IBT Social Compact endorsed by government, industry, financiers and communities
- A National IBT Implementation Roadmap (2026 - 2030)
- An IBT Investment and Acceleration Framework
- Commitments for industrialisation, localisation and job creation
- A plan for regulatory modernisation

## 9. CONCLUSION

The Presidential IBT Summit is a defining moment for South Africa's human settlements sector. As a pre-SONA event, it ensures that the country's transition to modern, efficient and sustainable construction is elevated to the highest level of government. By convening national leaders, innovators, financiers, researchers and communities, the Summit will unlock modern solutions, accelerate delivery, and strengthen South Africa's global competitiveness.



# BT

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