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35th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BALLISTICS, CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA

25 to 30 October 2026



28 May 2026

Invite to attend the 35th International Symposium on Ballistics (ISB2026)

On behalf of the International Ballistics Society (IBS), SABO is proud to announce the 35th International Symposium on Ballistics (ISB2026) which will be held at the Cape Town ICC, South Africa from **25th to 30th October 2026**.

The theme of the Conference is **“Wind of Change”**.

We hereby invite you to attend the 35th International Symposium on Ballistics (ISB2026). Kindly note all attendees are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

The International Symposium on Ballistics (ISB2026) will feature expert tutorials, robust discussion and thought-provoking presentations among ballistics professionals. As a first for the ISB, **digital interactive posters** will be featured on large format HD monitors on the most state of the art technology. We are planning for **two-track sessions** to allow for more oral presentations during the conference. The ISB2026, in keeping with its theme, aims to attract a large number of leading experts from the African and Asian Continent, together with those from the rest of the World.

Tutorial courses will be given on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th October 2026.

The topics for the 35th ISB includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Interior Ballistics
2. Exterior Ballistics
3. Launch Dynamics
4. Vulnerability and Survivability
5. Terminal Ballistics
6. Explosion Mechanics
7. Hypersonics
8. Applications of AI in Ballistics
9. Emerging Smart Technologies, Drones and other Technologies

ISB2026 is primarily aimed at persons and organisations involved with, or interested in:

- Ballistics
- Weapon & Ammunition Design
- Weapon and Ammunition Manufacturing
- Ammunition Testing
- Ballistic Simulation
- End users of weapons and ammunition
- Forensic ballistics and law-enforcement applications



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- Advanced materials for weapons and ammunition
- Modelling, data science & AI applications in defence
- Military operations, doctrine and capability development related to weapon effects
- Academia and research organisations working in defence science and technology
- Test range operations & instrumentation
- Safety, qualification, and compliance professionals in the munitions sector

The ISB is the foremost event in the field of ballistics. It serves as a global assembly, featuring elevated plenary sessions, site visits, and a rich cultural and social itinerary. Here, ballistics professionals, government officials, industry leaders, policymakers, academia, scientists, and emerging professionals convene, engaging in constructive dialogues to encourage scientific and technical advancements in sustainable ballistics and its implementation. No other conference in the field brings together all the above-mentioned professions which is a unique opportunity to learn from each other, develop together and exchange knowledge in sessions, meetings and networking activities.

ISB2026 offers a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, techniques and technologies. By granting regional and local educators, practitioners, and researchers access to an international network, this conference and exhibition fosters opportunities for regional and local participants to establish novel business connections and research collaborations. This collaborative networking endeavour is poised to stimulate innovation, catalyse ideas, and set research agendas for years to come, and bolster the region's economy.

As the premier ballistics event of the year, **ISB2026** is supported and endorsed by the CSIR, Armscor, UNISA and Rheinmetall Denel Munition and will register for CPD points.

There will be a number of high-level local, regional and international keynote presenters and sessions of **ISB2026**.

ISB 2026 presents a pivotal moment for ballistics professionals to accelerate action, foster innovation, and shape the next era of global development. This conference will bring together thought-leaders, policymakers, and experts to explore how to navigate the changes. ISB2026 will serve as a catalyst for bold ideas and strategic action, ensuring a thriving and sustainable future for generations to come.

The event is set to spotlight an array of regional and local entrepreneurs, artisans, artists, and craftspeople, granting them access to a global audience. This collection of small, medium, and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) constitutes a pivotal sector for fostering the growth of the Southern African economy. The conference will play a role in nurturing and expanding these SMMEs, leaving a lasting impact far beyond the conference's conclusion. This, in turn, will contribute to launching and enhancing numerous careers.

Social sustainability will be a core focus of the conference, aiming to broaden its outreach to directly support disadvantaged communities. Such initiatives will extend the event's influence, leaving a more enduring legacy. The conference will seek to leave a legacy through a dedicated focus on environmental sustainability, by not just minimizing damage but actively attempting to improve the environment when the conference takes place e.g., optional carbon footprint offset fee, using environmentally friendly suppliers, materials and products. It will also run a competition for the best environmentally friendly stand/project/supplier as encouragement.

For Young Professionals in Ballistics who are attending the conference, there will be networking opportunities, such as social events and meet-ups.

The Students Program looks to offer funding and bursary opportunities for students who would otherwise not be able to attend the conference. Funding for these bursaries will be through sponsorship by companies and individuals. The

applicants will be expected to present at the conference and will submit a report on their experiences at the end of the event.

The Jack Riegel student award applies to students enrolled in an academic institution at the time of the conference and interested in ballistic phenomena are eligible for nomination to the Jack Riegel Student Awards. This program is aimed at graduate students or undergraduate students, while students who have already reached the PhD level prior to the conference may not be eligible anymore. The grant consists of funding (up to \$1000 of travel and hotel reimbursements plus free conference registration fee) to one (1) student from each of the following technical areas of the symposium: Interior Ballistics (IB), Launch Dynamics (LD), Exterior Ballistics (EB), Explosion Mechanics (EM), Terminal Ballistics and Impact Physics (TB), and Vulnerability (VB). This makes a maximum of six (6) Jack Riegel Student Awards for each conference.

Participation from the African region will be through the South African Ballistics Organisation and its African Network. The participation of the network ensures that this is not just a South African conference, but a truly African event. Ballistics experts in the region will contribute to the formulation of the programme, bringing regional knowledge, services and products which will continue to promote a circular economy in the region.

The conference will, subject to funding availability, include a volunteer programme designed to facilitate participation by students, interns and retirees involved in ballistics.

PROGRAMME

Sun 25 th Oct	Mon 26 th Oct	Tue 27 th Oct	Wed 28 th Oct	Thurs 29 th Oct	Fri 30 th Oct
Registration for Tutorials	Registration for Tutorials	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
	Plenary Venue Set Up	Symposium	Symposium	Symposium	Symposium/Close
Tutorials & catering Venue	Tutorials & catering venue	2 nd session	2 nd session	2 nd session	2 nd session
Exhibition Set up	Exhibition Set Up	Exhibition & Posters, & Catering	Exhibition & Posters, & Catering	Exhibition & Posters Registration for Tutorials	Exhibition & Posters – Registration for Tutorials Exhibition Breakdown
	Registration PM		Technical/Programme Tour		
	Welcome Reception PM		Conference Dinner		
	Speakers Prep room	Speakers Prep room	Speakers Prep room	Speakers Prep room	Speakers Prep room

The conference will also have a full and varied **social programme**.

- Welcome Function – 26 October - 17h30 for 18h00, Exhibition Area
- Networking Function - 27 October – Times and Venue to be Advised
- Conference Gala/Theme Dinner – 28 October – 19h30, Venue to be Advised
- Day Tours – 25 to 30 October, to be Advised
- Technical/Programme Tour – 28 October, to be Advised
- Pre and Post Tours, to be Advised



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KEY OBJECTIVES FOR CONFERENCE

- Promote and develop sustainable and professional ballistics in the region and the transition to a circular economy.
- Bring together ballistics experts from around the world to network, create best practices and produce industry reports.
- Foster and encourage the development and training of ballistics in the region.
- Stimulate Knowledge and Skills Transfer - facilitate the sharing of knowledge, ideas, techniques, materials, and technologies by providing local educators, practitioners and researchers with access to a network of international attendees.
- Encouraging international cooperation in ballistics which in turn will hopefully generate innovation, ideas and research agendas for many years to come and support the region's economies.
- Stimulate Foreign Direct Investment in the region
- Promoting resource efficiency through sustainable production and consumption in the region.
- Provide an opportunity to showcase the best available technologies and practices to the region.
- Allows the sharing and curating of knowledge among peers.
- Identify and promote competence in a body of individuals through accreditation.
- Providing support to the region's developing and emerging economies.
- Aid in the region's economic recovery both in tourism and ballistics sectors.
- Stimulate other industry trade in products and services - showcase local entrepreneurs, artisans, artists and craftspeople and give them access to a global audience. These small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) form part of a sector which has been identified as crucial to growing the region's economies.
- Assist in the growth and development of these SMMEs and provide an impact long after the conference, and in turn, be responsible for launching or boosting careers.
- Provide a social benefit to South Africa – the conference will take its social sustainability footprint seriously, and work to expand the reach of the event to directly assist disadvantaged communities.
- Initiatives will extend the conference's footprint and leave a more lasting legacy.
- Provide a legacy - through a dedicated focus on environmental sustainability by not just minimising damage but actively attempting to improve the environment when the event takes place e.g., optional Carbon Footprint off-set fee.
- Publishing a scientific proceeding.

Please feel free to correspond with myself in respect of your presentation on the history of ballistic development in South Africa.

Yours faithfully



Prof Thanyani Pandelani and Dr Tleyane Sono

SABO - 35th International Symposium on Ballistics (ISB2026) Chairs



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