



Invest in Life Sciences and Health in Cape Town & the Western Cape September 2025

WESGRO
cape town & western cape
tourism, trade & investment



**Wesgro is the
tourism, trade and
investment promotion
agency for Cape Town
and the Western Cape**



- Wesgro is part of the broader economic leadership team in Cape Town & the Western Cape
- Proudly South African
- Responsible for ensuring that the region is positioned to compete in a challenging global economy
- Our mandate
 - Differentiate Cape Town & the Western Cape as a leading regional economy
 - Increase foreign and domestic investment into Cape Town & the Western Cape
 - Grow Western Cape exports of goods and services
 - Grow leisure tourism consideration in international and local markets as well as growth in business events
 - Be a future-fit, relevant and trusted Tourism, Trade & Investment Promotion Agency (TTIPA)
- Publicly-funded with a private sector Board, +100 Staff
- Located in the nexus between
 - Government & Private Sector
 - Present & Future Economies
 - Local & Global Stakeholders

Key messages

1

The Western Cape is a strategic springboard into the rest of the African continent, and beyond, linking businesses to high growth opportunities through preferential market access

2

The Western Cape is a powerhouse for healthcare innovation in Africa – where pioneering research, advanced manufacturing, and a thriving investor ecosystem anchor our global competitiveness

3

The Western Cape hosts renowned global health leaders celebrated for novel and advanced medical achievements and is also home to more than 20 centres of excellence, particularly in research, development, and innovation

4

The Western Cape offers a versatile talent pool nurtured by leading universities, with high level skills in STEM subjects, providing investors with an essential element for success

5

The Western Cape provides an enabling business environment with Wesgro providing support throughout the investment lifecycle

South Africa A vibrant, emerging market connecting Africa with the world



USD 363 billion economy



Market of 63 million people



Africa's most industrialized and most diversified economy



50% of multinationals in Africa located in SA



AfCFTA gateway with preferential access to African markets



Sophisticated financial services and banking sector



Deep bench of powerful and well managed corporations which via the JSE have the highest capitalization to GDP ratio in the world



Western Cape A leading regional economy

- Unprecedented, multi-billion USD public and private sector infrastructure investment pipeline, reshaping the economic future
- Leading South Africa's job recovery
- Modern, services-led economy
- Growth sectors aligned to the future
- Leading tourism destination
- Institutional stability and good governance
- Global connectivity
- GFCF is rising, however needs spatial rebalancing

South Africa's most resilient & investable province



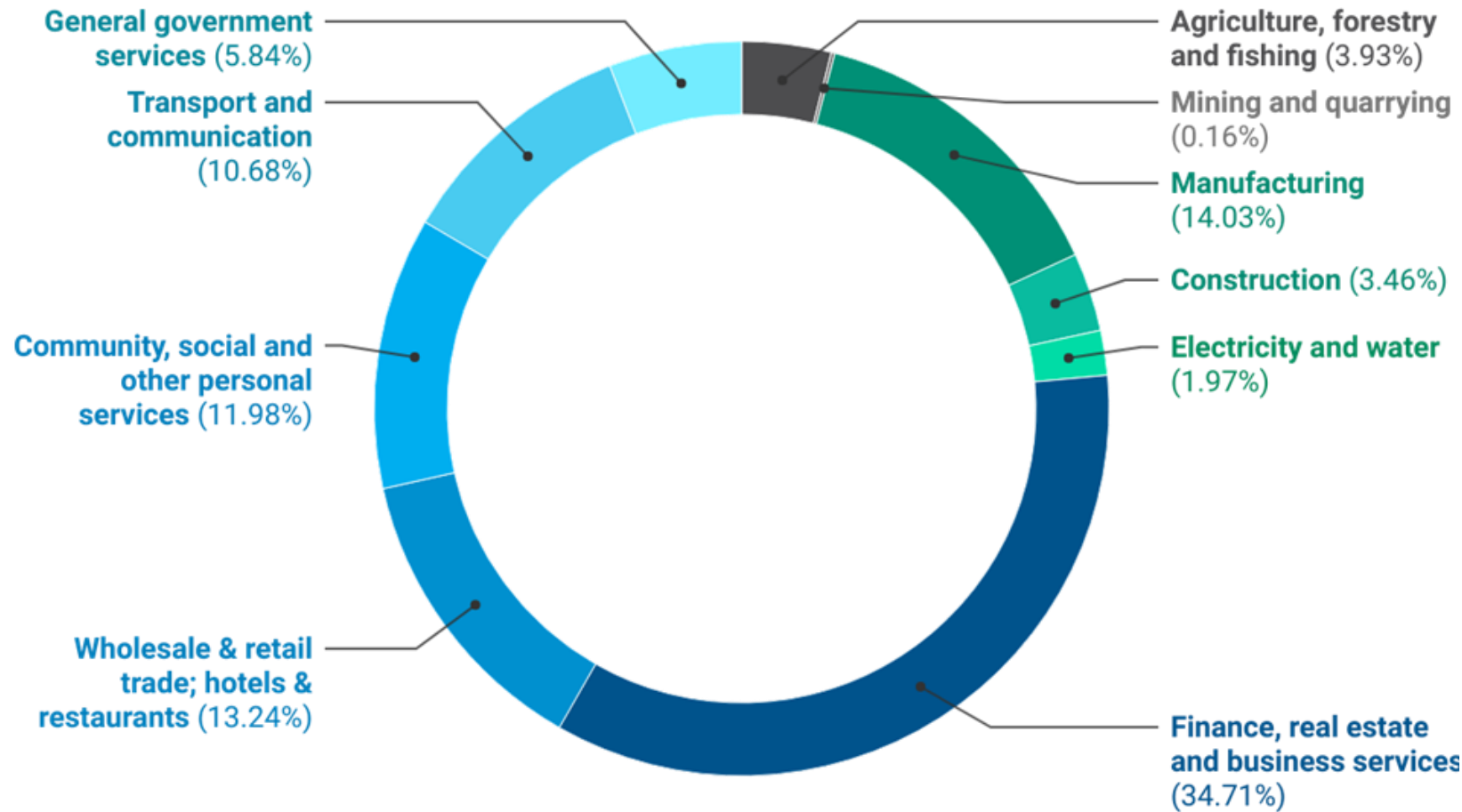
Western Cape Diverse & resilient economy with a well-developed services sector, 76% of GVA

USD 51 billion regional economy

7.5 million people

Diversified and export-oriented

Composition of GVA at constant 2015 prices (2024Q4), WC



Life Sciences & Health Compelling reasons to invest in the Western Cape

1 Strategic Export Hub for Africa

The Western Cape accounts for **24%** of South Africa's exports of instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical & sciences. It offers a gateway to the AfCFTA, unlocking potentially duty-free access to a **USD 3.4 trillion** market.

2

Growing Healthcare Demand

Rising middle-class spending is fuelling demand for diagnostics, treatment, and digital health solutions.

4

World-Class Research & Innovation

Home to top-tier universities, and leading academic hospitals, including Groote Schuur – the site of the world's first heart transplant. Pioneering genomic medicine, HIV/TB diagnostics, and AI-driven healthcare.

5

Advanced Manufacturing & Medtech Excellence

A leading medtech hub in Africa, specialising in surgical robotics, 3D-printed prosthetics, and vaccine production.

3

Digital Health & Telemedicine Leadership

South Africa is home to leading digital health firms, advancing remote monitoring, electronic health records, and AI diagnostics, while expanding telehealth to underserved rural areas and international markets.

6

Pioneering Technologies

The Western Cape has made advancements in genomic medicine and sequencing, HIV/TB diagnostics and AI-driven healthcare. It is home to the first mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub in Africa, a collaborative effort between a South African consortium and the WHO.

8

Skilled Workforce & Cost-Competitive Talent

Strong talent pipeline in biotech, engineering, and data science at globally competitive salaries. Industry-academia collaboration ensures a steady flow of skilled professionals.

9

Sustainable Healthcare & Biodiversity Advantage

Over **9,000** plant species (10% of global biodiversity) support natural drug discovery and biotech research.

7

SA's World Firsts

- **2017:** First transorbital surgery in the world.
- **2015:** The Aceso System – the first commercial system that combines digital mammography and automated breast ultrasound in a single device.

10

Incentives

For additional information scan here:



Life Sciences & Health Strategic investment opportunity in the Western Cape



Medical Devices

- Diagnostic and imaging equipment
- Wearable and remote monitoring devices
- Surgical and hospital equipment
- Prosthetics and orthopaedic devices
- Respiratory and anesthesia equipment
- Medical consumables and disposables



Biotech

- DNA sequencing and African genomics
- Vaccines and diagnostics
- Industrial biotech
- Microbiome solutions
- Future of food
- Bioinformatics / data science / AI / ML



Pharmaceuticals

- Medicinal drugs and generics (HIV/AIDS, malaria, cancer, tuberculosis)
- Active pharmaceutical ingredients
- Niche pharmaceuticals – alternative healing
- Biological-based drugs and bio-therapeutics
- Medicinal cannabis



Digital Health

- Telemedicine platforms
- Health data analysis
- Wearable health technology
- Digital therapeutics
- Healthcare supply chain solutions
- Patient management systems
- Health education and wellness platforms

Life Sciences & Health Western Cape is home to prominent global and local investors across the subsectors

Medical Devices



Biotech



Pharmaceutical



Digital Health



Life Sciences & Health A well established and vibrant ecosystem supports investment and linkages into the local economy

Events - networking



cape town & western cape
tourism, trade & investment

Local and international business



Universities and demand-led training



Ecosystem support



INNOVUS



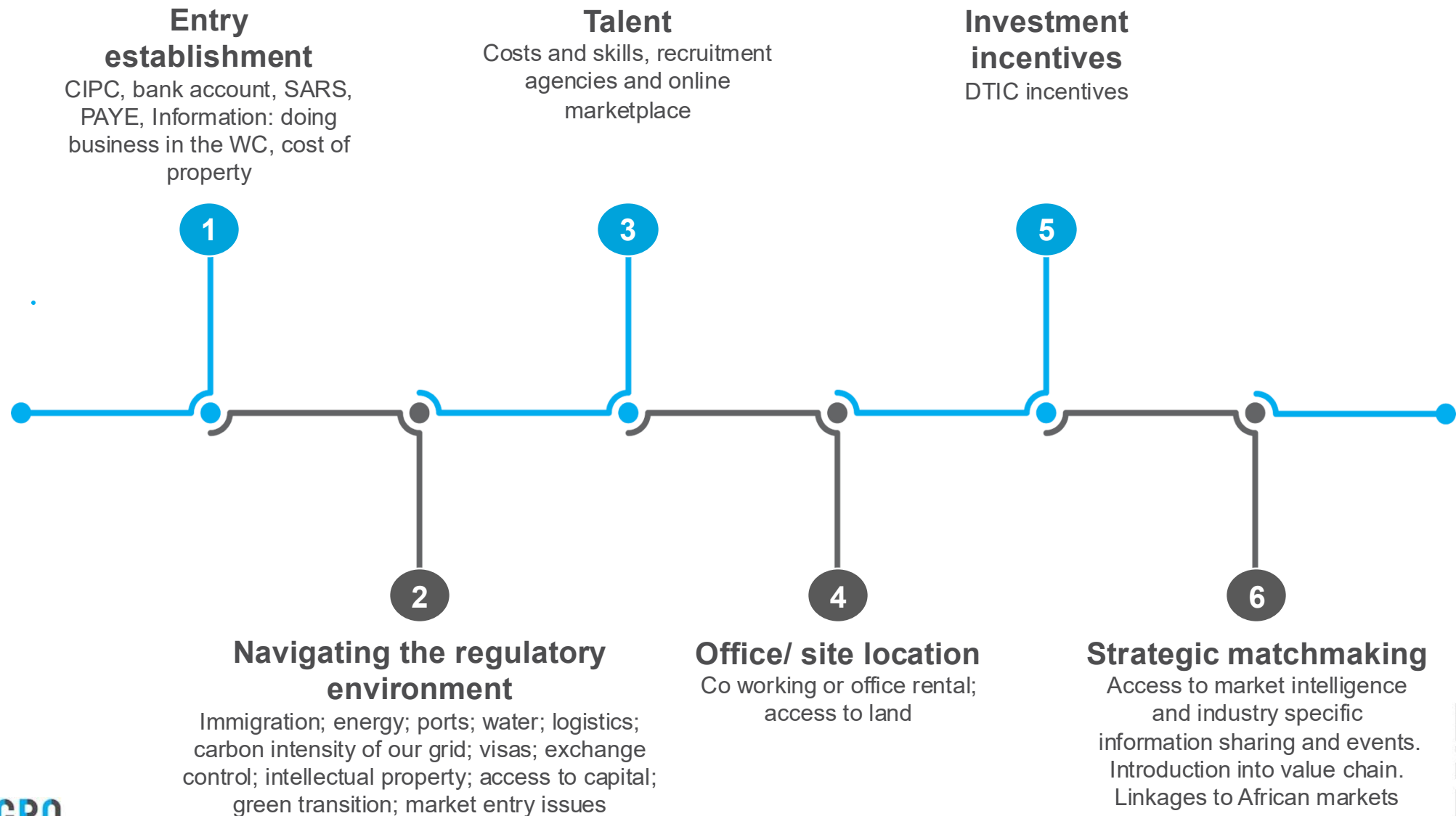
Industry associations



Investors



Investment Facilitation How Wesgro supports investors



Medical Devices Invest in the Western Cape and take advantage of the USD 7.14 billion market by 2032

Global market opportunity	Africa/ Sub-Saharan African market opportunity	South African market opportunity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global annual sales forecast to rise by over 5 percent a year and reach nearly USD 800 billion by 2030.• Integration of services and data intelligence with products to offer holistic solutions and contribute to shorter, cheaper, and fewer hospital visits – and thus lower healthcare costs.• Industry trends – projected growth in implantable medical devices, out-of-hospital / in-home medical devices, medical and diagnostic laboratory equipment and surgical robots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current market value is USD 8-10 billion projected to increase to USD 20 billion by 2030.• Growth driven by increasing healthcare needs, population growth, urbanization, and efforts to strengthen health systems.• Africa and the Sub-Saharan market has growing demand for diagnosis and imaging products, consumables, patient aids, orthopedics, prosthesis and dental products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local manufacturing valued at USD 200 million – USD 300 million per annum.• Western Cape accounts for 24% of South Africa’s exports of instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical & sciences. It offers a gateway to Africa through regional and continental FTAs, unlocking access to a USD 3.4 trillion market.• Significant growth in prosthetics, dental equipment and syringes, and needles and opportunities in respiratory and anesthesia equipment.

Source: KPMG, Medical Devices 2030

Source: SAMRC Report, 2022

Source: SAMRC Report, 2022

Medical Devices Well established medical devices cluster with advanced and innovative manufacturing capabilities

Medical Devices Cluster	Innovation Ecosystem	Advanced Manufacturing	Industry Roadmap
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The WC hosts the only medical devices cluster in SA which aims increase competitiveness of the industry through technology innovation. This cluster is supported by the Global Health Innovation Accelerator (GHIA) programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Western Cape Medical Devices Cluster and South African Laboratories and Diagnostics Association (SALDA) provide technical and industry information to companies that may set up manufacturing facilities in SA.The WC hosts numerous incubators and funders that support medical technology hardware innovation such as Savant and SKEG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Locally developed hi-tech devices, including the design and manufacture of advanced breast imaging technology and low radiation full body X-ray machines that are used internationally.Domestic production is anticipated to continue to grow in sophistication as indicated by the number of innovative medical devices at different development stages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The SA Medical Technology Master Plan (2024 – 2035) provides a national roadmap for this subsector.The plan outlines three key strategic objectives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Growth of a competitive medtech industry over the next 3 years.Employment generation and development of technical skills.Digitalise and use AI to increase efficiencies.

Source: Who Owns Whom, 2019; Fitch Solutions, 2021; BMI Research, 2016

Medical Devices Western Cape is home to prominent global and local investors

Ti-TAMED

synexa
LIFE SCIENCES


CONVERGE
solutions

SINAPI
biomedical


M.P.A
Medical Plant Africa

LRS
IMPLANTS


SNC
STELLENBOSCH NANOFIBER COMPANY

LIFE
ASSAY

BioTech South African market projected to reach USD 21.6 billion by 2030

Global market opportunity

- Nasdaq biotechnology index, which tracks the prices of public biotech companies traded on the exchange showed an increase by more than 15% in 2024.
- Global biotechnology market size is projected to grow to USD 3.75 trillion by 2034.
- Global trends and opportunities in precision medicine and genomics, biologics and biosimilars, synthetic biology, agri-biotech and digital biotech.

Source: KPMG 2025 Investment Outlook;
Cervicorn Consulting – Biotechnology Market
Size, Share, Trends Report 2025 – 2034;

Africa/ Sub-Saharan African market opportunity

- Estimated current market size in Africa is USD 9 –11 billion, forecasted to grow to 20 - 25 billion by 2030.
- Africa's high disease burden coupled with the need for local manufacturing is driving the growth trends: regional vaccine manufacturing, genomics and diagnostics (particularly for TB, HIV, sickle cell, cancer).
- Increase in biotech startups in health, agriculture and diagnostic technology with companies such as 54gene, RxAll, Helix Biogen, Bixbio.

Source: SNS Insider Strategy and Stats, 2024

South African market opportunity

- SA market is expected to reach USD 21.6 billion by 2030, with a CAGR of 13.5% from 2024 to 2030.
- Market growth driven by advancements in genetics and molecular biology. Key areas of growth include health, bioinformatics, and the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic tools.
- Key developments: Polymerase Chain Reaction, Next Generation Sequencing Bioinformatics, Proteomics Pharmacogenomics.

Source: Centre for Proteomic and Genomic
Research – The Rise of Advanced
Biotechnology Research in South Africa (2024)

BioTech Innovation ecosystem serving both small and large-scale pharma presents opportunities for further investments

Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem	Manufacturing Capabilities	Untapped opportunities in the African Market	Academic Institutions Hospitals and
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovus – an innovation and commercialisation hub based in Stellenbosch University uses the output of the university's research to promote entrepreneurship, create new jobs and new products and services.• VC Funding – Recent VC funding successes include Immobazyme, Impulse Biomedical and Hyrax Biosciences.• Intellectual property protection laws for innovative technologies and a robust judicial system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roche and Biovac – established manufacturing facilities in the WC indicating that the WC has the necessary capabilities to develop the industry.• Development of Biosimilars by Afrigen Biologic with an mRNA hub and vaccine adjuvants.• Kapa Biosystems – a WC company specialising in human vaccine manufacturing was sold to Roche for USD 445 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the increasing need and demand to produce human vaccines for the African market.• Africa is considered to have the greatest potential for reaping benefits from biotech crop adoption given the prevalent issues of poverty and malnutrition in the region.• Department of Science and Innovation – national bio-technology strategy to enhance science-based innovation in health sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 internationally accredited universities.• 7 renowned research and academic hospitals.• Technology transfer offices located in the University of the Western Cape, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Stellenbosch University.

Source: *Plantae – American Society of Plant Biologists: Biotechnology Development in Africa (2023)*

BioTech Western Cape is home to prominent global and local investors



Pharmaceuticals Opportunities for generics projected to increase by 40% in the next 5 years

Global market opportunity

- Global market size of the industry is currently estimated at USD 1.5 trillion and projected to reach USD 2.5 billion by 2030.
- Pharmaceutical companies adopting Pharma 4.0 – utilizing digital technologies like AI, IoT, and robotics to enhance efficiency, quality, and patient-centric approaches.

Source: wavteq, Industry Blueprints Life Sciences: Pharmaceuticals, 2021

Africa/ Sub-Saharan African market opportunity

- Approximately 37.5% of pharma firms are based in Egypt, 18.8% in Morocco, 12.5% in SA, Ghana and Tunisia and the rest in Mauritius.
- Increasing opportunities in the market with the growth of the generic drugs and biosimilars market and the development of personalised or precision medicine such as immunology and gene editing.

Source: wavteq, Industry Blueprints Life Sciences: Pharmaceuticals, 2021

South African market opportunity

- South Africa is the only SADC member country that meets the World Health Organisation's Good Manufacturing Practice standards. This positions South Africa as a gateway to the Southern African market for manufacturers of pharmaceutical products.
- 265 South African pharmaceutical manufacturers with more than 50% exclusively supplying the private sector.

Source: InvestSA: South Africa Fact Sheet 2020 – Investing in South Africa's Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Sector

Pharmaceuticals Strong local and regional demand driving investment growth

Pharmaceutical Cluster	Globally Certified Health Authority	R&D Support	Financial Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pharmaceutical clusters in the Western Cape and in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape in response to the prominence of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis as well as lifestyle diseases and more recently Covid-19.• Demand for pharmaceutical products in SA and the Southern African region. Local production is focused on generic products, leaving a gap in manufacturing of biologics and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API's).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has FDA and EU accreditation.• SAHPRA is mandated to accelerate product approval times and manufacturing facilities certification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Strategic Health Innovation Partnership, a partnership between the South African Medical Research Council and the Department of Science and Technology, funds and manages R&D projects for new drugs (and medical devices).• The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides technical support (including testing facilities) to SMMEs for the development of medical products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chemical Products and Pharmaceuticals Strategic Business Unit of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) offers funding and industry and project development support to businesses developing pharmaceuticals products.• The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition provides funding for R&D through the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP) and Support Programme for Industrial Innovation (SPII) incentives.

Source: InvestSA: South Africa Fact Sheet 2020 – Investing in South Africa's Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Sector

Pharmaceuticals Western Cape is home to prominent global and local investors



Digital Health Local and international venture capital unlocking innovation in the African market, projected to grow to USD18bn by 2030

Global market opportunity

- Global digital health market is projected to reach over USD 234 billion by 2030.
- Growth trend is driven by the ongoing transition of the healthcare industry towards a value-based care model.
- The Internet of Medical Things (Digiceuticals, Virtual Care, Telehealth, Genomics, Personalized Medicine, Digital Therapeutics, and Healthcare in the cloud illustrate the future of technology-driven health systems which is growing at a rapid pace.

Source: Digital Health – fDi Institute: Investor Shortlists 2021

Africa/ Sub-Saharan African market opportunity

- The current market value is USD 5 – 6 billion and projected to grow to USD 18- 20 billion by 2030 - making it one of Africa's fastest-growing tech verticals.
- 85%+ of Africans access digital health via mobile phones with widespread use of apps for maternal health, chronic disease management, and remote diagnostics (telemedicine).
- Rapid funding rounds for platforms like mPharma, Zipline, Helium Health, Healthtracka, and Remedial Health.

Source: IQVIA, White Paper: Digital Health System Maturity in Africa, 2023

South African market opportunity

- Digital health entrepreneurs using technology to develop solutions that improve patient care, streamline operations, and save costs. This growing interest is attractive to venture capitalists.
- SA company, LifeQ raised USD 47 million in Series A VC funding in 2021 led by SA's One Bio Venture Studio – a global leader in biometric intelligence and wearable technology, incorporating disease detection technology and personalized lifestyle recommendations.

Source: Digital Health – fDi Institute: Investor Shortlists 2021

Digital Health Well developed technology ecosystem & dependable ICT infrastructure creates further investment opportunities

Well-developed Tech Ecosystem	Well-developed ICT Infrastructure	Solutions for Underserved Communities	Opportunities in Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevalence of technology incubators including support for digital health start-ups located in the WC.• Developments in remote monitoring, electronic health records, and AI diagnostics and telehealth provided to underserved rural areas and international markets.• SA's National Digital Health Strategy supports digital health platforms, integration of electronic health records, and mHealth interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SA is recognized as having the most advanced and largest ICT sector in Africa – robust digital infrastructure, vibrant startup ecosystem, and government initiatives promoting digital growth.• The ICT sector is experiencing significant growth, driven by increasing internet penetration, mobile adoption, and the rise of e-commerce.• SA is regional hub and a supply base for neighboring countries and home to vibrant start-up communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MomConnect – established by the National Department of Health in 2014 to register pregnancies and provide pregnant and postpartum women with twice-weekly health information text messages as well as access to a help desk for queries and feedback.• CommCare, a community health worker (CHW) data capture and decision-support application with a focus on HIV and TB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telemedicine platforms, health data analysis, wearable health technology, digital therapeutics, patient management systems, and health education and wellness platforms.• There is potential in the SA market to raise VC funding in SA to facilitate expansionary plans for SA and/or international investors.• Cape Town-based companies Strove, Innohealth and 3X4 Genetics have received VC funding.

Sources: Tech Ecosystem: National Digital Health Strategy for South Africa 2019 – 2024; USA International Trade Administration: SA National Focus – Digital Economy Overview

Digital Health Western Cape is home to prominent global and local investors



THANK YOU



Contact us for more information

For further information on setting up or expanding your business in Cape Town & the Western Cape please contact Wesgro's Investment Team

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