



Vacancy: Project Data & Research Associate

Location: Midrand

Who we are? / About us

The Automotive Industry Transformation Fund (AITF) is a collective Equity Equivalent Investment Programme (EEIP) established by seven multinational automotive manufacturers operating in South Africa. AITF plays a central role in driving meaningful and sustainable transformation across the country's automotive sector. Our mandate is to promote inclusive growth, increased black participation across the automotive value chain, job creation, and enhanced sector competitiveness. We achieve this through the effective management of key transformation initiatives, including EEIP commitments and the APDP2 Transformation Fund, providing developmental funding, facilitating market access to OEMs, and delivering targeted capacity-building support to qualifying black-owned enterprises. AITF also supports competitiveness and localisation across the supply chain through the Automotive Supply Chain Competitiveness Initiative (ASSCI), which focuses on supplier upgrading, operational capability improvement, and localisation outcomes.

In addition, AITF plays a leadership role in advancing the South African Automotive Masterplan (SAAM 2035). As the secretariat to the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC), and through the SAAM Delivery Office (SDO), AITF supports coordinated governance, monitoring, and execution of priority initiatives aimed at strengthening global competitiveness, increasing localisation, and supporting sustainable employment growth within the automotive sector. By bridging public policy objectives with private-sector commitment, AITF contributes to building a globally competitive, inclusive, and transformed automotive industry that delivers long-term value for South Africa and its people.

Position summary

Reporting directly to the Chief Programme Officer (CPO), the Project Data & Research Associate plays a key role in supporting the delivery of the SAAM 2035 objectives. The incumbent will be responsible for identifying and mapping SAAM project opportunities, supporting supplier engagement initiatives, and developing robust industrial project cases.

This role provides critical analytical and operational support to Strategic Project Leads and the SAAM Delivery Office (SDO) team. Key functions include conducting research, analysing data, and preparing reports on market trends, risks, and opportunities within the local, regional, and global automotive sector. The position also oversees tracking and reporting on SDO project progress, ensuring accurate monitoring of deliverables, effective project execution, and seamless stakeholder coordination.

Educational Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree or advanced diploma in Economics, Data science, Finance and Business Administration.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support the identification and mapping of SAAM project opportunities, including compiling opportunity maps and assisting with project timelines, deliverables, and budgets.
- Assist in drafting standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Coordinate supplier and stakeholder engagement, including preparing presentations, briefing notes, and communication packs.
- Develop and maintain industrial project cases, ensuring accurate documentation and regular progress reporting.
- Conduct research and review technical reports, market analyses, and industry trends.
- Analyse real-time data to identify trends, risks, and opportunities.
- Track project progress and support monitoring, reporting, and tool development for research and analysis.
- Manage and maintain a centralised data repository in compliance with legal and risk requirements.
- Prepare regular reports and communicate insights to Strategic Project Leads, the CPO, and other stakeholders.
- Contribute to continuous improvement of project processes, tools, and methodologies.

Min. years of relevant work experience:

- 3+ years' experience in project support, research, and analysis preferably within the automotive, manufacturing, or industrial sectors.
- Experience in working with researchers, media, subject matter experts, AI tools, data mining tools etc.
- Experience in data analysis, project coordination or management.
- Economics/Data Analyst and Project Reporting.

Closing date: 04 March 2026

If you meet the requirements, you are invited to apply by forwarding your CV to autofund.co.za/careers.aspx

We appreciate your interest at joining the AITF team, the position for which you applied and the time that you invested in this application. Our team may contact you for additional information during the application review process. Should you not hear from us within two weeks from the closing date of this advert, please consider your application unsuccessful.