



AWARDS 2025

Startup20 (SU20) Awards Programme

Venue: Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

Date: 14 November 2025

Time: 19:00 – 23:30

**Theme: “Empowering Startups and MSMEs:
Championing Resilience, Innovation, and
Sustainable Growth”**





Time	Session Title	Details	Speakers
18:00 -19:00	Red Carpet & Guest Arrival	Guest registration, photo opportunities, welcome drinks, networking, and media interviews	Local Artists
19:00-19:10	Opening Cultural Prelude	MC welcome and announcements; overview of Startup20 Awards;	MC – Enkromelle Andrew
19:10 - 19:15	Welcome Address	Welcome Address by the MMC for Development Planning in the City of Johannesburg	Councillor Eunice Mgcina, MMC for Development Planning in the City of Johannesburg
19:15 – 19:25	Opening Address	Reflections on the Startup20 journey and acknowledgement of guests	Vuyani Jarana Chairperson, Startup20 South Africa
19:25 – 19:30	Partner Address	Global Entrepreneurship Week	Jonathan Ortman, Founder and President, Global Entrepreneurship Network
19:30 – 19:35	Partner Address	Falak Investment Hub	Adwaa Aldakheel, Founder and CEO, Falak Investment Hub
19:35 – 19:40	Partner Address	Absa Group	Joan Mogale, COO, Absa Business Banking
19:40 – 20:00	Keynote Address	Department of Small Business Development	Hon. Minister Stella Ndabeni, Minister of Small Business Development
20:00 – 20:15	Starters are served	Live performance by local band	
20:15 – 21:00	Awards Adjudication	Member of the Adjudication committee announces the process	Gianluca Riccio, Chair of the Business, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): (BIAC) Finance Committee
	Awards Presentation	MC introduces awards categories and presenters	





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Time	Session Title	Details	Speakers
	Category 1	GreenTech Startup of the Year	Mansour Al Sanooni, Founder, eVision
	Category 2	AgriTech Startup of the Year	Nkosikhona Mbatha, Chief Executive Officer of SEDFA
	Category 3	EdTech Startup of the Year	Tom Mkhwanazi, Chief Executive Officer, Wholesale & Retail SETA (W&RSETA)
	Category 4	HealthTech Startup of the Year	Thulisile Manzini, Director General, The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD)
	Category 5	FinTech Startup of the Year	Vignesh Subramani, Interim Managing Executive: SME Business, Absa Group
21:00 – 21:40	Dinner is Served	Musical performance or cultural showcase	Band
21:40 – 21:45	Closing Remarks	Vote of thanks and appreciation to guests, partners, and participants	Kizito Okechukwu, Head of Startup20 Secretariat
21:45 – 23:30	Dessert, Photo Session and Networking	Dessert served; group photos with winners and dignitaries; background music or DJ set	Band and DJ

