



Smart Africa
Investment Forum 2025
Investing in Africa's Digital Future: AI, Innovation & Growth
Concept Note

1. Introduction

With a fast-growing digital market, Africa is witnessing significant advancements in digital infrastructure, AI-driven solutions, and a thriving startup ecosystem. More importantly, as demand for technology-driven services and scalable digital solutions continues to rise, the need for strategic investments to sustain and accelerate this momentum has never been greater.

To bridge this investment gap and unlock Africa's full digital potential, the Smart Africa Investment Forum 2025 will convene on **11th November 2025**, in Conakry, Guinea as a strategic platform to mobilize capital, accelerate digital innovation, and foster high-impact investments that will shape the continent's digital future.

Organized as a pre-summit event to the 7th Transform Africa Summit, the Investment Forum will bring together governments, investors, venture capitalists, and entrepreneurs to connect, discuss, and commit to investment-ready projects in AI, digital infrastructure, and tech entrepreneurship. By facilitating structured deal-making and strategic partnerships, the forum will serve as a catalyst for unlocking new investment opportunities and driving Africa's long-term digital transformation.

2. Objectives

The TAS Investment Forum 2025 is structured around the following key objectives:

- Showcase Smart Africa (SA)-led investment projects

- Facilitate high-level dialogue between global investors, policymakers, and industry leaders on the investment landscape in Africa
- Attract & mobilize investment into AI, digital infrastructure, and tech-driven entrepreneurship
- Showcase investment-ready projects from the Smart Africa Secretariat, SA member states, the private sector, and development partners to unlock scalable growth opportunities.
- Foster structured Government-to-Business (G2B) to unlock partnerships and accelerate deal-making for SA Member State investor-ready projects.

3. Key Stakeholders

The Smart Africa Investment Forum 2025 will bring together:

- SA member states to showcase their investment-ready digital projects.
- Institutional Investors, Venture Capital firms, private equity funds, pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds.
- Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) supporting large-scale infrastructure and technology financing.
- Tech Startups & Entrepreneurs showcasing AI, fintech, and digital transformation projects.
- Accelerators & Incubators engaging in ecosystem development and startup funding collaborations.

4. Key Outcomes

- Increased investments in SA-led projects
- Strengthening cooperation between governments, investors, and the private sector to drive Africa's digital transformation.
- Increased capital mobilization for digital infrastructure, AI and tech-driven startups
- Increased visibility on what venture capitalists, would look for in investing
- Actionable Insights from the high-level discussions
- Actionable investment leads and partnership opportunities emerging from G2B sessions

5. AGENDA (Tentative)

Morning Session:

MC: TBD

08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival, Registration & Networking Breakfast

09:00 – 09:15 | Opening Remarks

AI Investment in Africa: Uncovering the Opportunities and Challenges

Speaker: Lacina Koné, Director General, Smart Africa

09:15 – 09:30 | AI Investment for Africa: Investor Perspective

Speaker: TBD

09:30 – 10:30 | Lightning Talk: Voices from the Ecosystem-Catalyzing Africa's Digital Growth: Investor Reflections from the Frontlines

Moderator: Chidi Afulezi, Managing Principal, redKola digital labs

Speakers:

- Guinea Industrial/Entrepreneurial Leader
- Volker Maiborn, CEO Maiborn Wolf
- Erik Almqvist CEO, Sense Strategy
- Mr. Karim Beguir, Co-Founder & CEO, InstaDeep

10:30 – 11:30 | Financing Investment-Ready Digital Infrastructure in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

Speakers:

- Government of Guinea Representative
- Multilateral/DFI Representative (e.g., World Bank or IFC)
- Private Sector / Infrastructure Fund Representative
- +20 other speakers

11:30: – 12:00 | Coffee Break

12:00– 13:00 | Government-to-Business (G2B) Exchange -

SA Member States pitch investment-ready digital projects to a curated investor audience.

Moderator: TBD

- Guinea
- Cape Verde
- The Gambia
- Ghana

13:00 – 14:00 | Networking Lunch

Afternoon Session: Showcasing SA Projects

14:00 – 15:30 | B2B Meetings with Smart Africa & Showcase Participants

Targeted business-to-business networking with project owners and Smart Africa partners.

Moderator: TBD

SA projects:

- The Africa Bulk Purchase Marketplace (BPMP)
- Smart Africa Scholarship Fund (SASF)
- Smart Africa Data Exchange Platform (SADX)
- SA VC Lab

15:30 – 15:45 | Closing remarks and next steps