

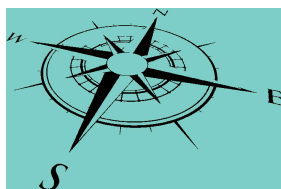
About MIIA

Contents

Vision.....	5
Mission.....	5
Values	5
1. Networking.....	6
1.1. Resources	6
1.2. Learning	6
1.3. Mentoring & Collaboration	6
2. Research & Applications.....	7
2.1. Problem Solving	7
2.2. Entrepreneurship	7
2.3. Development	7
3. Partnerships.....	8
Administrative Information.....	8

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Machine Intelligence Institute of Africa (MIIA)

Description:

The Machine Intelligence Institute of Africa (MIIA) is a nonprofit organization founded by Dr Jacques Ludik in 2015 (and launched in 2016)

Stakeholder(s):

MIIA Board of Directors

Dr Jacques Ludik :

Chairman & Founder — Jacques Ludik is a smart technology entrepreneur, investor & ecosystem builder and currently-Founder & President of Machine Intelligence Institute of Africa (MIIA), Founder & CEO of Cortex Logic, Founder & CTO of Bennit AI, Founder of SynerG, The Talent Index, & aiTRADE Systems, and investor in The Student Hub (ERAOnline). He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science (AI) with many publications and has 25+ years' experience in Machine / Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Data Science and its applications. MIIA is an innovative community & accelerator for Machine Intelligence & Data Science Research & Applications to help transform Africa, whereas Cortex Logic is an AI company that provides an AI Engine for Business, advances AI and builds smart applications for a range of industries. Bennit A.I. is an intelligent virtual production assistant/advisor for manufacturing. Jacques was Vice President of Data Science & Chief Data Officer at JUMO, a company that provides the next generation mobile money marketplace for emerging markets. Jacques has also founded an Analytics/AI software company, CSense Systems where he was Executive Director (Joint MD, CTO, & COO) for about 14 years, that provides software, services & solutions to customers world-wide in a range of industries (financial, mining, chemical, manufacturing, etc.) via an international reseller & solution partner network. The company was sold to General Electric (GE) in 2011. At GE he held various leadership roles for 4+ years including Big Data & Analytics Leader and Director of GE Intelligent Platforms. Jacques was also Senior Lecturer & Researcher at Stellenbosch University, where dozens of his papers on AI were published in Journals and International Conferences as well as a book published by Cambridge University Press (UK). He also has a patent filed for Knowledge Fusion. Jacques holds a B.Sc (Cum Laude), Hons.B.Sc. (Cum Laude), M.Sc. (Cum Laude), and PhD degrees from Stellenbosch University.

Andrew Watkins-Ball :

Director (interim) — Andrew Watkins-Ball is the CEO and Founder of JUMO. For the last seven years, Andrew has been focused on the technology and financial services sectors. He successfully built various businesses including Gateway Telecommunications, a satellite service provider, sold to Vodafone for \$675m in 2008. Andrew is also currently a partner of a fund focused on the application of nanotechnology in the energy

sector. Andrew previously spent seven years at Salomon Brothers in London and New York. His first business success came by building an event production business in Cape Town that included work for Quincy Jones and Nelson Mandela.

James Godwin :

Director (interim) — James Goodwin is the CTO at JUMO. He is an experienced engineer with over 20 years of experience in web development, software development, IT management and Telecommunications. Previously, as head of Engineering at Let's Sell Lobster, he built an education system to scale by moving a monolithic application into micro service architecture. James has extensive knowledge of the fintech industry as the founder and CTO of two mobile wallet companies. At Star210, he built a switching solution to enable secure online payments via debit cards. The company built the first USSD based mobile wallet which serviced over 7 million customers to buy and sell airtime. In order to top up wallets, James also created the first online debit order processing service that was then adopted by sme's to manage their debit orders. James holds a mechanical engineering degree from Cape Peninsula University of Technology. As we grow MIIA, we'll be reviewing the current Board of Directors and appointing Directors to provide leadership and strategic direction in helping MIIA to accomplish its vision and mission.

MIIA Board of Advisors & Thought Leaders :

We are currently also in process of appointing a Board of Advisors & Thought Leaders. Nominations and recommendations are welcome at info@machineintelligenceafrica.org.

MIIA Management Team

Dr Jacques Ludik :

President — Jacques Ludik is a smart technology entrepreneur, investor & ecosystem builder and currently Founder & President of Machine Intelligence Institute of Africa (MIIA), Founder & CEO of Cortex Logic, Founder & CTO of Bennit AI, Founder of SynerG, The Talent Index, & aiTRADE Systems, and investor in The Student Hub (ERAOnline). He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science (AI) with many publications and has 25+ years' experience in Machine / Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Data Science and its applications. MIIA is an innovative community & accelerator for Machine Intelligence & Data Science Research & Applications to help transform Africa,

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Stakeholders (continued)

whereas *Cortex Logic* is an AI company that provides an AI Engine for Business, advances AI and builds smart applications for a range of industries. *Bennit A.I.* is an intelligent virtual production assistant/advisor for manufacturing. *Jacques* was Vice President of Data Science & Chief Data Officer at *JUMO*, a company that provides the next generation mobile money marketplace for emerging markets. *Jacques* has also founded an Analytics/AI software company, *CSense Systems* where he was Executive Director (Joint MD, CTO, & COO) for about 14 years, that provides software, services & solutions to customers world-wide in a range of industries (financial, mining, chemical, manufacturing, etc.) via an international reseller & solution partner network. The company was sold to *General Electric (GE)* in 2011. At *GE* he held various leadership roles for 4+ years including *Big Data & Analytics Leader* and *Director of GE Intelligent Platforms*. *Jacques* was also Senior Lecturer & Researcher at *Stellenbosch University*, where dozens of his papers on AI were published in *Journals and International Conferences* as well as a book published by *Cambridge University Press (UK)*. He also has a patent filed for *Knowledge Fusion*. *Jacques* holds a *B.Sc (Cum Laude)*, *Hons.B.Sc. (Cum Laude)*, *M.Sc. (Cum Laude)*, and *PhD degrees* from *Stellenbosch University*.

Bianca Ludik :

Operations Manager — *Bianca Ludik* is *Operations Manager* at the *Machine Intelligence Institute of Africa (MIIA)*. She holds a *B.Com business management degree* (majoring in *Logistics Management, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Management and Financial Management*) from *Stellenbosch University*. *MIIA* is an innovative community and accelerator for *Machine Intelligence and Data Science Research & Applications* to help transform Africa. Previously, *Bianca* has spent 2 years doing promotional sales part time at various promotion companies whilst completing her degree.

Elna Ludik :

Finance Manager — *Elna Ludik* is *finance manager* at the *Machine Intelligence Institute of Africa (MIIA)* and *Cortex Logic* as well as *financial administrator* at *Bel'Aire Estate*. She holds a *B.Com degree* (specializing *Economy, Business Economics, Financial Accounting*) from *Stellenbosch University*. *MIIA* is an innovative community and accelerator for *Machine Intelligence and Data Science Research & Applications* to help transform Africa, whereas *Cortex Logic* is a machine intelligence software company that builds real-world cognitive computing applications that learn at scale, reason with purpose and interact with humans naturally for individual and business use to enhance productivity, discovery and exploration; fast track and extend human expertise; and improve predictions and decision making. Previously, *Elna* has spent 9 years at *Santam Ltd*, the largest short-term insurance company in South Africa, where she has been the *Head of Underwriting* at the *Stellenbosch office*. After she left *Santam Ltd*, she also worked as *Financial Administrator* at *Eikestad Primary School*, *Finance Manager* at the *ACVV* in *Stellenbosch*, and *Short-term Insurance Consultant* at a few *Brokerage firms*, as well as *Financial Administrator* at *Bel'Aire Estate*.

MIIA Community Activity Leaders**Alex Conway :**

* *CEO of NumberBoost (applied machine learning startup)*

- *MSc Statistics (Deep Learning) (in prog.)*, *Hons. Actuarial Science [UCT]*
- *Organizer of Cape Town Deep Learning Meet-up since November 11/2016*
- *Organizer of MIIA events, including Hackathons, since January 2017*

Chris Currin :

* *PhD Computational Neuroscience (in progress)*, *MSc Neuroscience [UCT]*

- *AI Nanodegree Alumnus and Mentor [Udacity]*
- *Organizer of Cape Town Intelligent Systems Meet-up since February 2017*
- *Organizer of MIIA events, including Hackathons, since January 2017*

Shaun Irwin :

* *Lead Developer Stone Three Mining*

- *MEng Electronic Engineering [Stellenbosch University]*
- *BSc Eng Electrical and Computer Engineering [UCT]*
- *Founder and speaker at ML Study Group, Stellenbosch*

MIIA Community Leaders :

As we get more momentum, we need leaders/managers within the *MIIA* community to volunteer and help drive various activities. We anticipate various roles to be filled on a volunteer basis of which some can become full-time employment and/or contracted positions:

Software Engineers**Researchers****Technology Managers****Training & Events Coordinator(s)****Project Coordinator****Website Content Manager****Geographical Community Leaders****Project Leaders****Domain Experts in Africa****Machine Intelligence Leaders****Data Science Leaders****Partnerships Manager****Funding Manager**

Vision

Africa is transformed

Mission

To serve as an innovative community and accelerator for machine intelligence and data science research and applications

Values

Data

Science

Learning

Collaboration

Intelligence

Excellence

Entrepreneurship

Partnership

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1. Networking

Build a Machine Intelligence and Data Science community in Africa

Stakeholder(s)

Africa

To build a strong and innovative Machine Intelligence and Data Science community in Africa to help transform Africa by networking together the critical mass of resources, promote and sponsor learning activities, and strengthen scientific and technological excellence, mentoring and collaboration on the continent.

1.1. Resources

Build a critical mass of resources

1.2. Learning

Promote and sponsor learning activities

1.3. Mentoring & Collaboration

Strengthen scientific and technological excellence, mentoring and collaboration on the continent

2. Research & Applications

Accelerate and deliver breakthrough Machine Intelligence and Data Science research and practical applications

To accelerate and deliver breakthrough Machine Intelligence and Data Science research and practical applications to solve African problems, support entrepreneurial activity, and help drive long-term inclusive and sustainable scientific, technological and socio-economic development on the continent.

2.1. Problem Solving

Solve African problems

2.2. Entrepreneurship

Support entrepreneurial activity

Stakeholder(s):

Entrepreneurs

2.3. Development

Drive long-term inclusive and sustainable scientific, technological and socio-economic development on the continent.

3. Partnerships

Support and help mould the future of Machine Intelligence and Data Science research and applications in Africa.

Stakeholder(s)**Governments****Businesses****Startup Incubators****Nonprofit Organizations****Universities****Research Organizations**

To partner with governments, business, startup incubators, non profit organizations, universities, and research organizations from around the world to support and help mould the future of Machine Intelligence and Data Science research and applications in Africa.

Administrative Information

Start Date:**End Date:****Publication Date:** 2020-09-17**Source:** <http://machineintelligenceafrica.org/about/>**Submitter:****Given Name:** Owen**Surname:** Ambur**Email:** Owen.Ambur@verizon.net**Phone:**