

PONALETSO™ COMMERCIAL FORENSIC INTERVIEWING (CFI) DIGITAL PLATFORM

A digital platform designed to support forensic investigations, case management, interviews, and evidence handling.

Problem / Market Need

Investigators and forensic teams often manage cases, interviews, evidence, and documents across multiple systems and manual processes. This can lead to inefficiencies, inconsistent investigation practices, and challenges in maintaining organised and auditable records.

There is a growing need for a centralised digital platform that supports investigators throughout the investigation process in a structured and efficient manner.

Description of Solution / Technology

The Ponaletso CFI Digital Platform is an investigative management platform created at North-West University. The platform is designed to assist investigators and forensic teams with:

- managing investigations and cases,
- recording and organising evidence,
- tracking chain-of-custody processes,
- managing interviews and related information,
- storing investigation documents,
- visualising relationships between relevant parties, and
- supporting investigative workflows through AI-assisted capabilities.

The system provides investigators with a centralised environment to manage investigations from case initiation through to reporting and review.

Key Benefits / Advantages

- Centralised case and investigation management
- Digital evidence and chain-of-custody tracking
- Structured interview and investigation support
- Relationship and network visualisation tools
- AI-assisted workflow support
- Improved organisation and auditability of investigations
- Multi-user and multi-organisation capability

Applications / Relevant Industries

- Commercial forensic investigation firms
- Corporate forensic and compliance divisions
- Auditing and accounting firms
- Insurance investigations
- Public sector investigations
- Financial crime and fraud investigation units

Stage of Development

The platform currently exists as an advanced prototype with core investigation management, evidence handling, and administrative functionality implemented.

The technology is available for pilot engagement, industry collaboration, and commercialisation discussions.

Intellectual Property Status

The Ponaletso CFI Framework and associated digital platform are being developed at North-West University (NWU). All resulting intellectual property is owned by NWU and may be licensed to partners.

Opportunity

NWU is interested in engaging with partners interested in:

- pilot implementation and testing
- software scaling and deployment
- integration into investigative environments
- strategic collaboration and commercialisation partnerships



For enquiries, contact:

Technology Transfer and Innovation Support (TTIS)

Ntiyiso Shabangu

Senior Specialist: Commercialisation

Email: Ntiyiso.shabangu@nwu.ac.za; TechTransfer@nwu.ac.za;

Tel: +27 18 299 4902

Image Credit: Microsoft Stock Images (via Microsoft 365)

Revision date: 26/05/2026

Reference Number: T2025-1144